

Dawn Lambeth. Biography

“An **absolutely wonderful** singer. It’s always gratifying to hear young performers taking up this genre!”

– *Nick Summers, KSPA, Los Angeles*

“...Whenever possible, we go to hear Dawn sing. Her voice is **clear and true**, her enunciation of lyrics is always impeccable, and her **style is timeless**. I would recommend her to anyone wanting to hear a good jazz singer and feel sure that her name and fame will yet be commensurate with her fine talent.”

– *Claire Gordon, secretary to Duke Ellington & jazz author*

Jazz vocalist and pianist Dawn Lambeth captivates audiences with her effervescent renditions of jazz classics. She specializes in early jazz and swing, the joyous and romantic melodies of the twenties and thirties. Her **grace and confidence** evoke the queens of jazz, eliciting comparisons from jazz aficionados to “the wonderful music of Lee Wiley, Maxine Sullivan, Billie Holiday, Ivie Anderson, and an early Ella Fitzgerald.”

Music has always been the center of Dawn's existence. As a young girl she studied voice and piano, and later graduated with a degree in music from Boston University. After stints with several different bands, she discovered her passion -- the music of the Jazz Age and Swing Era. Old jazz and swing styles fit perfectly with her outlook on life -- a love of melody, and of the beauty and integrity of older styles of literature, art and design. Or, as she put it, "when I heard James P. Johnson, it was all over." The relaxed, pure voice of Maxine Sullivan was her first great vocal influence and Maxine's introduction led to a string of influences, including Lee Wiley, Connie Boswell, Ella Fitzgerald, Mildred Bailey, Billie Holiday and Jo Stafford. At the same time, she was taken with not only the piano style of James P Johnson, but also Teddy Wilson, Jess Stacy and Count Basie (among many others). For Dawn, the Great American Songbook is the perfect medium, as she says, "these songs are like the stories I love – they’re beautifully constructed little gems”.

Dawn has appeared at more than a dozen **renowned jazz festivals** nationwide, and performs with many noted bands, including the legendary Bobby Gordon’s Sextet and Clint Baker’s New Orleans Jazz Band, and most recently with the Reynolds Brothers' Rhythm Rascals. Residing in Paso Robles, CA she frequently delights Central Coast audiences with her Usonia Jazz Band, performing regularly for private events and at highly regarded hotels, wineries and music venues. She has made three trips to Osaka, Japan for performances, the most recent being in April 2008.

Dawn has four CD’s to her credit, including her winter 2007 release “Let's Get Lost”.

For more information about Dawn Lambeth and the Usonia Jazz Band, please visit www.usoniajazz.com, or call (805) 610-5418.

“Let’s Get Lost” on the airwaves.

- Has received airplay on over 100 radio stations and syndicated shows in the US, Canada, Australia, Europe and Japan (June 2008)
- Was in the Top 10 jazz CD's of the week for over 12 of those stations, and was #1 CD of the week at 2 of those stations.
- Was picked up for reissue in Japan by the VividSound record label
- Broke into the on the CMJ Jazz Charts top 40 (July 2008)

Seen...

At more than a dozen renowned jazz festivals.

Arizona Classic Jazz Festival	Pittsburgh Jazz Festival
Big Bear Lake’s Festival of Jazz	Sacramento Jazz Jubilee
Desert Swingin’ Jazz in Palm Springs	San Diego Dixieland Jazz Festival
Jazz in the Olympics	Seaside Jazz Festival
Jazz in the Rockies	Sonoma County DixieJazz Festival
Mardi Gras in Fresno	Spokane Dixieland Jazz Festival
Medford Jazz Festival	Swing in the Colony, Atascadero
Dixieland Monterey Jazz Festival	Sweet and Hot Jazz Festival
Pismo Beach Jazz Jubilee	

In 2007, participated in over 120 public and private performances, either as a soloist or with her group the Usonia Jazz Band

At historic venues, such as.

Avalon Theatre, Maryland	William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA
Hearst Castle, California	Smithsonian Institution, Wash., DC
New Suntory 5, Osaka, Japan	

With many noted bands, including.

The Usonia Jazz Band
The Reynolds Brothers Rhythm Rascals
The Bobby Gordon Sextet
Clint Baker’s New Orleans Jazz Band
Leon Oakley’s Friends of Jazz
The Boilermaker Jazz Band

“With **assured vocals** that show an affinity for the form, Lambeth leads a crew of crack jazz hitters that are all on the same page in a set that has the kind of sound and feel of a cool, unexpected find you would find in a thrift store (not a used shop). Not off beat but delightfully off center. Not nostalgic, not retro, **just really cool.**”

– *Chris Spector, Midwest Record*

Overheard ...

“Of special note on this CD is the vocalist, Dawn Lambeth, who brings a **refreshingly unaffected** quality to delightful melodies. Obviously familiar with recordings by Billie Holiday, Fats Waller, and Louis Armstrong, Dawn never the less has her own sense of time, phrasing, and sound that is quite endearing.

In addition to her talents as a singer, she also is a fine pianist in her own right.”

- *Charlie DeVore, noted jazz historian and cornetist*

“This band really swings, and Dawn’s in great voice. **Great, obscure songs!**”

- *Ken Crawford, host of NPR’s internationally syndicated “Rhythm Sweet & Hot”*

“On New Year’s Eve, nowhere jumped any more massively than – you’d never guess – Gigi’s in San Luis Obispo. Songbird/pianist Dawn Lambeth, has a solo gig there, [and] Gigi’s hired in a really classy group to go with Mademoiselle Dawn on the Eve... As the crowd grew, **jeopardizing the local occupancy limits**, and the standing room disappeared, the management made that unheard of request: ‘Could you play louder?’ They could, and did, and nobody went home until the place closed down.”

- *Jim Leigh, West Coast jazz columnist for The Mississippi Rag*

“**Truly outstanding jazz!** Dawn Lambeth’s talented, sweet voice added a note of charm.”

- *New Orleans Jazz Club of Northern California*

“A **smooth** band, featuring vocalist Dawn Lambeth, who sings in the style of Lee Wiley and Maxine Sullivan.”

- *Andy Whittenbourn, traditional jazz photographer*

“It’s the girl singer, and she’s doggone good. ... reminding me of a young Jo Stafford. Close your eyes, and you can almost hear the radio announcer saying, “Now from the ballroom of the **elegant** Metropole Hotel, the music of...” ...it’s Ms. Lambeth’s voice that makes it all work. All this simplicity is tougher than it seems, in that there’s no scooping into the notes, just a crisp forward motion, given Ms. Lambeth’s gifted talent for phrasing. She **makes it seem simple**, and that’s her great talent.”

- *Doug Boynton, Girl Singers*

“Dawn, thanks for that Disc of **Truth & Beauty**. You are a plum **wonderful singer**.

I love the songs you pick -- **great taste** -- you must be an avid record collector or a music listener both **sensitive and voracious**.

Nice job with the verse on With a Song in My Heart.

Band is swell, too. Always admired Reitmeier. Reynolds is really fine. Nice pulse in the rhythm section throughout. How I envy you for performing and recording with those guys. How I envy them for congregating around a singer of such quality.”

- *Mike Plaskett, host of NPR’s internationally syndicated “Rhythm Sweet & Hot”*

Reviews of Let's Get Lost (2007) & "Midnight Blue" (2004)

"Even if you can't sing, and I sure count myself in that group, you can't help wanting to swing along with Dawn Lambeth on her recent release, *Let's Get Lost* (Spanish Shawl Music). Although residing in trendy southern California, Dawn eschews the abundant pop and rock covers of many of her contemporaries, instead delving (sometimes quite deeply) into the songbooks of the 20s and 30s, noting that "the older era just felt more authentic to my own style."...*Let's Get Lost* takes the listener on a joyous journey down the sunny side of Swing Street. Every song reveals a deep well of supportive musical talents and, thanks to Dawn Lambeth, every word, every verse opens like a perfect rose. *Let's Get Lost* is a delightfully fragrant bouquet."

– *Andrea Canter, Jazz Police*

"Wow! Wow! Triple wow for Dawn Lambeth. What a great album!"

– *George Middleton, KLBC Long Beach*

"The CD fairly bursts out of the speakers – not with volume but with a joyous vitality that is too rare today – and Lambeth's voice, airy and gentle, floats above her gifted accompanists. Her approach is straightforward and unaffected, without tricks or gimmicks, and she's not trapped in recreations of 1938 Vocalions. She is engaged in the music and having a good time, and her pleasure communicates itself immediately to listeners... If you think that the Mildred Bailey, Billie Holiday, and Maxine Sullivan dates of the great period are ethereal pleasures (and who would not?) you will find this CD evocative although not hemmed in by their records. I look forward to many more rewarding Dawn Lambeth CDs."

– *Michael Steinman, Cadence*

"Dawn Lambeth, who earlier this year appeared at the Derby with an all-star group of swing and classic jazz players, is a cheerful 1920s/30s jazz singer. Her style is conversational and friendly, a bit like that of Maxine Sullivan. When she improvises notes or words, it sounds like a logical part of the song, an "improvement" that works. On *Let's Get Lost*, she is assisted by a notable octet (clarinetist Bob Reitmeier, John Smith on alto and soprano, cornetist Marc Caparone, trombonist Dave Caparone, pianist Chris Dawson, guitarist John Reynolds, bassist Clint Baker and drummer Jeff Hamilton) that often makes the performances reminiscent of the early Billie Holiday records with Teddy Wilson. That connection is reinforced by Chris Dawson, who on this date generally sounds similar to Wilson, the relatively brief performances (no song lasts longer than 5:07), and the repertoire. While Lady Day never sang "Let's Get Lost" or nearly half of the 18 songs, the style and frameworks are similar and just as rewarding. Historic models aside, Dawn Lambeth has her own approach to interpreting swing standards, she often includes the verses, and she clearly believes in the words and the timeless spirit of the music."

– *Scott Yanow, Los Angeles Jazz Scene*

"Dawn Lambeth's new CD is a gem...with great songs, stylish singing and first rate musicianship! Kudos to all concerned."

– *Bob Collins, The Jazz Cafe WRHU*