

Beverly Taft - BIO

Toronto-born vocalist Beverly Taft has performed throughout Ontario, as well as in Japan, and select cities in the U.S. Her interpretations of jazz standards have been praised by critics (from the Toronto Star to 680 NEWS, to Hamilton's View Magazine) as "delightful", "charming", "all full of energy" and "100 per cent pure beautiful jazz".

She's sung in nightclubs and restaurants for several years, and has performed at a wide range of venues at home and abroad, including: The Rex Jazz & Blues Bar, The Dominion on Queen, The Distillery Historic District, The Gladstone Hotel, The Montreal Bistro, U of T's "Friday Jazz at Oscar's" Series, and jazz festivals in Barrie, Markham, Muskoka, Orangeville, Orillia, Peterborough, and Southampton, as well as The Celebrate Toronto Street Festival, and the Toronto Downtown Jazz Festival, to name a few.

Beverly's repertoire spans five decades and a few continents, and in addition to leading her own "straight ahead and swingin'" jazz combo, she's involved in several different musical ventures, including "The Bossa Nova Project", "Murata, Quarrington and Taft", "Beverly and her Swell Fellas", and a new french cabaret show called "Parlez-Vous Jazz?", for which she was described as "époustouflante" (breathtaking) by the Toronto French language weekly, Métropolitain. She also sings with two ten piece bands: Mitch Beube's swing band in Muskoka and the Toronto-based York Jazz Ensemble.

A dual citizen of the U.S. and Canada, Beverly made her Los Angeles debut to a full house at Orange County's Spaghettini Restaurant with L.A. players Ron Levy (piano) and Bruce Lett (bass player for Jack Sheldon) in March of 2006. Later that year, she travelled to San Francisco to perform at the San Francisco Design Center (with local players Jonathan Alford, Chuck Bennett, Deszon Claiborne and Pete Cornell), for Microsoft's year-end party. In November 2007, and again in April 2008, Beverly performed with the Michael Royal Trio at the East Village Cabaret in Sarasota, Florida. In May, 2008, Beverly and violinist San Murata toured Japan with Kyushu-based saxophonist Ken G, performing eight shows in seven cities, in seven days. Since then, Beverly has written lyrics to one of Ken G's original songs, and she also featured Ken G with her band at several gigs at the Toronto Downtown Jazz Festival in '09.

Beverly's first CD, "How 'Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Down on the Farm?", (now sold out) received worldwide airplay - from Argentina to Tasmania! - when it first appeared, and can still be heard on radio, thanks to Canada's Premiere Jazz Station, Jazz FM 91.1, and CBC Radio across Canada. She feels that music is best experienced LIVE, and although she loves the hot rhythms and sweet melodies, her main goal is to communicate the essence of the song and its story to audiences.

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