

Anna Laura Quinn // FULL BIO

New Orleans-based vocalist Anna Laura Quinn is gaining notice for her particular blend of contemporary jazz, well-loved tunes from the American Songbook, French and Brazilian music, and more, all delivered with style, sensitivity, emotional power, and a *joie de vivre* that recalls the charm and mystique of a bygone era. A self-proclaimed “jazz acolyte,” Anna uses her voice to convey her deep regard for the legacy of jazz music to audiences of all ages, backgrounds, and musical proclivities.

A recent graduate of the Jazz Studies masters program at the University of New Orleans, Anna made her debut appearance at the 50th annual New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival in 2019 with the UNO Jazz All-Stars. As a graduate student at UNO, she was able to vastly expand her capacity for musical expression as a vocalist, bandleader, and arranger, with the support of faculty mentors like guitarist Brian Seeger and pianist Victor Atkins. Through the school’s popular “Jazz at the Sandbar” series, she had the opportunity to perform alongside many internationally renowned guest artists, including trumpeter Terence Blanchard; vocalists Kurt Elling, René Marie, and Karrin Allyson; pianists Ellis Marsalis and Danilo Perez; drummer Jamison Ross; and the legendary organist, Dr. Lonnie Smith, to name a few.

Anna’s performing career began with the lively and eclectic Americano Social Club in the Bay Area in 2014 and she is one of the featured vocalists on their 2015 recording, *Cirque de L’Amour*. She now leads her own projects both in San Francisco and in New Orleans, where her gig calendar is today rapidly expanding. Anna engages regularly with a mix of seasoned and emerging musicians alike, and has appeared onstage at such venerable jazz venues as Snug Harbor, Preservation Hall, the Starlight Lounge, and Dos Jefes Uptown Cigar Bar, where she gigs monthly.

In December 2018 Anna released her debut EP, *I Feel a Sudden Urge to Sing!*, which was recorded in San Francisco and features guitarist Scott Foster, bassist Joe Kyle Jr., violinist Justin Ouellet, and accordionist Rob Reich. Music critic Holly Devon, in her review of the recording in *Antigravity Magazine*, describes Anna’s voice as “a well-worked instrument that brings new vitality to classic tunes from the likes of Cole Porter and Duke Ellington,” with “arrangements that are part jazz, part bossa nova, with a dash of violin *menouche* mixed in for good measure.”

Her first full length album *Open the Door* (to be released on February 18, 2022) features nine of her arrangements which were conceived and recorded in New Orleans between November 2019 and July 2021. The project knits together many of the influences that she has held dear on her trajectory as a musical artist: vocal jazz innovator/composers Abbey Lincoln and Betty Carter; composers Kurt Weill, Cole Porter, and Duke Ellington, whose work was featured on her first EP; songs from classic Disney films (in particular *Alice in Wonderland*); the unique modes and textures of Ethiopian jazz pianist Mulatu Astatke; and the music of the late New Orleans icon, jazz pianist/composer Ellis Marsalis. The album will be released on Next Level, an imprint of the Outside in Music label.

The seeds of Anna's creative exploration were planted at a young age. A San Francisco native, she grew up in a household where music was always revered and she absorbed the sounds of a vast array of musical artists from the Beatles to J.S. Bach to Dr. John to Ella Fitzgerald. She had 14 years of bilingual education at the French-American International School in San Francisco and later learned Portuguese while living in Brazil for several months. She attended New York University where she earned a BFA in Studio Art in 2008, and lived in New York City for seven years before moving to New Orleans in 2010. The wild and beautiful Crescent City has been inspiring and nurturing her creative growth ever since.

Anna is propelled by her unwavering dedication to music, visual art, and collaboration, and is constantly seeking out new experiences that will open the door for personal growth, self-understanding, and a deepening sense of community. She brings this spirit to her craft as a vocalist, leaning into the improvisational essence of the jazz idiom and delivering lines with sincerity, humor, and imagination. Anna hopes that her music, and indeed all of her creative endeavors, may convey a spectrum of emotions and above all a heartfelt expression of her joy.

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