New York Voices

Darmon Meader, Lauren Kinhan, Peter Eldridge & Kim Nazarian

Friday, February 17, 2012 – Crowder Hall, 7:30 p.m.

LAUREN KINHAN

Marking her fifteenth year as a member of the New York Voices, Lauren is no longer the new girl, but a rock and mortar member. Always a primary focus in her career, she has contributed original songs to the NYV repertoire and continues to do so on their latest outing, A Day Like This, released in August of 2007.

In 2005 she joined musical forces with four stunning solo artists creating Moss, Luciana Souza, Theo Bleckmann, Kate McGarry and Peter Eldridge. They combine their unique talents in fresh musical settings, pushing beyond their comfort zones, and create new music for the vocal group genre.

Lauren has had the privilege of being involved in the grass roots development of Bobby McFerrin’s choral project; a collection of his original songs set for multiple voices. While in stark contrast, Lauren appeared on the critically acclaimed CD by Ornette Coleman, Sound Museum, Three Woman. It was voted Down Beat’s 1997 Jazz Record of the Year.

In 2000 Lauren collaborated with Japanese guitarist, Jiro Yoshida, on a collection of jazz standards titled, Guitar and the Moon. The rhythm section was made up of the legendary, Eddie Gomez on bass, and members of NYV’s rhythm section, Andy Ezrin on piano and Ben Wittman on drums. The Song Writer’s Hall of Fame and SESAC awarded Lauren the 1997 Abe Oleman Scholarship for song writing excellence. She is a graduate of Berklee College of Music.

teaching. He now has two solo CDs out in the universe – the compelling Fool No More, full of his evocative melodies and stirring lyrics. Fool No More was co-produced by Peter and the fiercely talented Ben Wittman.

Peter’s other release is the melancholy, yet swinging, Stranger in Town, made up of some of Peter’s favorite standards (and one original). He produced the project, bringing together such jazz luminaries as Michael Brecker, Claudio Roditi, Lewis Nash, and Romero Lubambo. WICN-FM in Boston awarded the recording the best jazz album of 2001. These CDs, as well as NYV pianist Andy Ezrin’s first trio recording Tactile (which Peter also produced) are on the independent label Rosebud Music.

An in-demand teacher as well, Peter continues to be part of the jazz voice faculty at the Manhattan School of Music. In addition, he travels near and far conducting master classes and workshops. One of his many talented students is Jane Monheit, who Peter often performs with when their schedules permit. His list of activities in the near future include projects with Ivan Lins, Bobby McFerrin, and Broadway diva Betty Buckley.
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Program selections will be announced from the stage.

Celebrating their 23rd anniversary in 2012, New York Voices is the Grammy Award winning vocal ensemble renowned for their excellence in jazz and the art of group singing. Their interests are rooted in jazz, but often Brazilian, R and B, classical, and pop influences are infused with equal creativity and authenticity. Besides their own CDs, New York Voices has made many guest appearances on recordings and live performances that have earned them critical acclaim and demand in a variety of musical settings. They have collaborated and recorded with some of the world’s most recognized artists and organizations including the Count Basie Orchestra, Paquito D’Rivera, Bobby McFerrin, George Benson, the Boston Pops, Marvin Hamlisch and several major symphony orchestras. The range of their repertoire is extensive, featuring jazz standards, music from the Baby Boomer period (including Beatles, Joni Mitchell, Stevie Wonder, etc.), swing and big band numbers, Brazilian music, and original songs by members of the group.

Says All About Jazz LA, “a sumptuous collection of vocal harmonic heaven – the vocals are a Whitman’s Sampler of various flavors and tastes, richer than a dark chocolate bon bon.”

New York Voices has traveled the globe with their elegant music, amazing audiences the world over with their impeccable voices and stunning arrangements. “Live, they’re just as impressive to witness,” says Mathew Lurrie of “Time Out Chicago.” “We dare say there may be no better way to understand the wit and wink of jazz harmony than via these Voices.” They have appeared on the stages of Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, The Blue Note (Japan, NYC), The Austria Opera House, The Zurich Opera House, and the list goes on. They have been seen at the many jazz festivals including the North Sea Jazz Festival, The Montreal Jazz Festival, and the New Orleans Jazz and Blues Heritage Festival. Along with their extensive concert performances and recording dates, New York Voices also works in the field of education, giving workshops and clinics to high school and college music students. Individually, the four members are involved in a variety of projects including solo performances, recordings, teaching, writing and arranging. To learn more about the group and for sound clips see their website, www.newyorkvoices.com.

Kim Nazarian
A native “up-state” New Yorker and magna cum laude graduate of Ithaca College, Kim is a founding member of the Grammy Award winning group New York Voices, formed in 1987. She has recorded numerous CDs and toured the world with this outstanding vocal quartet. For their most recent project, the group took on the role of featured artist with Paquito D’Rivera on his latest release for the MCG Jazz label, Brazilian Dreams.

In Japan, Kim has a solo CD on the JVC label titled Red Dragonfly In New York. This educational project is a collection of Japanese folk songs that have been translated into English and arranged in “western” musical settings. Ms. Nazarian is also a featured artist on a number of other CDs released on the MCG Jazz label, including Afternoon In Rio with Joe Negri, The 21st Century Swing Band, and the highly acclaimed A Nancy Wilson Christmas.

In New York, Kim continues not only her private studio, but also her active involvement in the studio scene, where her credits include numerous jingles and major motion picture scores. After establishing her dual residency in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Kim was a featured vocalist along with Ray Brown and Stanley Turrentine in the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre production Indigo In Motion. Kim truly enjoys being a wife and mom, whether at home or on the road.

Darmen Meader
Recognized in both the jazz vocal and instrumental world, Darmon is considered one of the premier vocalists, arrangers and saxophonists in jazz today. Darmon has achieved rapid international recognition as the founder, musical director, chief arranger, composer, producer, saxophonist, and vocalist with New York Voices. As a member of New York Voices, he has released four albums on the GRP Records label.

In addition to Darmon’s continuing New York Voices touring and recording commitments, he is increasingly busy as a sideman, university clinician, and studio musician. When not involved with music, Darmon likes to “escape” from New York through a variety of outdoor activities including biking, skiing, camping and kayaking!

Peter Eldridge
Besides his ongoing endeavors and engagements as a New York Voice, Peter continues to lead the eclectic life of a solo artist; mixing together all aspects of performing, recording, composing, producing and