

# Linda Ciofalo

## **The innovative jazz singer Mark Murphy said it best:**

*"Linda Ciofalo is an absolute bundle of joy. Wait 'til you hear her sing, you're in heaven!"*

Ciofalo's repertoire ranges from such diverse sources as bluesman John Lee Hooker to Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway. Her voice can be both hard-hitting and gutsy, or lend itself to pure romance.

At an early age she was accepted to New York's High School of Music and Art but due to parental disapproval of her musical aspirations, she was not allowed to attend. Subsequently, in later years she attended evening classes for classical vocal technique and musical theater at Julliard.

Inspired by a televised performance of Sarah Vaughn, Ciofalo's interest in vocal jazz was peaked and in the mid-80s she auditioned among 300 singers and garnered the featured vocalist spot in a big band jazz orchestra. This led to a career as a club date singer performing with New York society orchestras at private parties, corporate functions and political fundraisers.



In 1999, wanting to lead her own band and develop her love for jazz, she recorded a CD of standards, jazz-pop and original works. This CD, entitled *Take the High Road*, took a life of its own and brought her to the attention of many New York jazz fans in addition to receiving world-wide airplay. It also led to performances at major New York clubs such as the Blue Note, Iridium, the 55 Bar, Old Westbury Gardens and the Long Island Distinguished Artists series. In addition she has shared the stage with Jazz legends, vocalist, Mark Murphy and guitarist, Les Paul. Vocalist Linda Ciofalo has recently been recruited by the Lincoln Center Institute/Tilles Center Education Outreach as a Music Teaching Artist, working in the New York State public school system, and is the head of the jazz vocal program for the Long Island High School of The Arts in Syosset, N.Y.

Ciofalo released her second CD, *Sun Set*, in the fall of 2007. AllAboutJazz describes *Sun Set* as ..."a theme of selected tunes that explore heat, times of day, weather, light and other sunny topics." Joined by an all-star band of top-rated New York musicians, including pianist John DiMartino, bassist Marcus McLaurine, drummer Matt Wilson, guitarist John Hart and saxophonist Joel Frahm, she sings a wide variety of material including inventive versions of Stevie Wonder's "Blame It On The Sun," "Here Comes The Sun," "Comes Love," Madonna's "La Isla Bonita" and the standard "Midnight Sun" plus duet pieces in which she interacts solely with drums, bass and

piano, respectively. Jazz critic Scott Yanow says, "The release of *Sun Set* will certainly increase Linda Ciofalo's fame and result in her gaining the recognition she deserves as one of the finest jazz singers around."

Since its release, *Sun Set* has received major airplay, and has been voted as one of the top Vocal CD's of 2007 CD's by JazzPolice and AllAboutJazz. Following her release party at Kitano N.Y.C., Linda completed a very successful West Coast Tour and was invited to perform in the Jazz at Lincoln Center Diet Coke Women's Jazz Festival in Dizzy's Club Coca Cola at J@LC. In addition Ciofalo has received awards from NYSCA, NYFA and National Council of PTA as well as others.

Ciofalo's 3rd recording project, due in the summer of 2010 is one that has always been near and dear to her heart -- a Johnny Mercer tribute. Ciofalo explains "Johnny Mercer's lyrics dance on a singer's lips. His words are intoxicating and sheer pleasure to sing, which may be why the greatest singers in the world have, and continue to, record his music. It was no easy task making song choices for this project. I was lucky enough to work with some of the best instrumentalists in Jazz today. In the course of the project's evolution, there was a pull toward Latin rhythms and grooves, and we went with it. It was my intent to tribute Johnny Mercer with a recording which is both romantic and moving. We hope it will make your heart feel like dancing..."