

Anna Laura Quinn // FULL BIO

New Orleans-based vocalist Anna Laura Quinn is rapidly 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, emotional power and sensitivity, 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.

Anna is currently in her final year of the Jazz Studies masters program at the University of New Orleans and in 2019 she made her debut appearance at the 50th annual New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival with the UNO Jazz All-Stars. As a graduate student at UNO, she has been able to vastly expand her knowledge of the idiom and her capacity for musical expression from the mentorship of guitarist Brian Seeger and pianist Victor Atkins, and also from the school’s unwavering focus on performance. Through the school’s popular “Jazz at the Sandbar” series, she has had the opportunity to perform with several internationally renowned guest artists: trumpeter Terence Blanchard, vocalist Kurt Elling, pianists Ellis Marsalis and Danilo Perez, drummer Jamison Ross, and the legendary organist, Dr. Lonnie Smith, to name a few.

Outside the university, Anna’s New Orleans gig calendar is rapidly expanding. She regularly engages with a mix of seasoned and emerging musicians alike, and has appeared onstage at such venerable jazz venues as Snug Harbor, Preservation Hall, and Dos Jefes Uptown Cigar Bar, where she has a monthly gig.

Anna grew up listening to vocal jazz music at home in San Francisco, and began performing with the lively and eclectic Americano Social Club in the Bay Area in 2014. She continues to perform regularly with the group at venues throughout the city—including Club Deluxe and Blush! Wine Bar—and is one of the featured vocalists on their 2015 recording, *Cirque de L’Amour*.

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.” Anna celebrated the release of her EP by self-producing two events: a house concert in San Francisco with the band from the recording in December 2018, and an art show and concert at the Mudlark Public Theatre in New Orleans in March 2019.

Anna lives for music, art, and exploration. A San Francisco native, she had 14 years of bilingual education at the French-American School and later learned Portuguese while living in Brazil for

several months. She attended New York University and earned a BFA in Studio Art, 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.

Among her greatest musical influences are Sarah Vaughan, Duke Ellington, and Mac “Dr. John” Rebannack. As a vocalist, Anna is exuberant and polished, delivering lines with rich tone and control, and evoking a vintage appeal and sensibility in her performances. She brings imagination, sincerity, and sass to her craft, both appealing to audiences of jazz aficionados and opening the door to the power of jazz music for new listeners.