

Diane Hubka *jazz vocalist/guitarist*

"A singer who deserves a listen ... she is a lady with an adventurous soul."
– George Benson

"Diane Hubka makes her way into a select group of jazz vocalists/instrumentalists, where she rightly assumes a place of honor." (*ALL ABOUT JAZZ*) Whether performing with a group, or accompanying herself on seven-string guitar, Diane is an engaging artist with an original sound. Moving easily through a program of jazz standards and bossa novas to whimsical tunes by Bob Dorough and Blossom Deary, to surprising originals, she gets straight to the heart of a song with her remarkable musicianship, masterful phrasing, "clear-as-mountain-stream sound", and irresistible sense of swing.



Concord recording artist and one of the world's foremost 7-string players, Howard Alden says: "I think voice plus seven-string guitar is an ideal combination. It's rare to find someone who can perform with both single-handedly, but Diane does just that - beautifully!" *All Music Guide* calls Diane Hubka "one of the top jazz vocalists of her generation."

Diane recently completed a 12-City tour of Japan, where her newest CD, *I Like It Here/Live in Tokyo*, (SSJ-USA) received a nomination for the prestigious Jazz Disc Award by *Swing Journal*. "Hubka dazzled the Japanese audience with her intelligent improvisations, understated emotions and energy." (*Eastwind Import.*) With overseas tours in Turkey & Japan and club appearances throughout the U.S., she continues winning international acclaim that began when her first CD, *Haven't We Met*, was released on the Dutch Challenge/A-Records label in 1999. Featuring legendary alto sax player Lee Konitz, it garnered a Jazz Award Nomination for "Best Recording Debut."

The award-winning vocalist was a vital member of New York City's jazz scene for two decades, before relocating to Los Angeles in 2004, where she collaborated with pianist Christian Jacob (Maynard Ferguson, Tierney Sutton,) to record *Diane Hubka Goes to the Movies*, (18th & Vine, USA; SSJ Records, Japan; 2007.) *JazzTimes* heralded its "winning results" and *All About Jazz* declared, "Hubka has created an entirely new songbook all her own." Her third CD, *You Inspire Me*, (VSOJAZ 2002) was a personal tribute to her love of jazz guitar, with seven of the world's top virtuoso guitarists playing on alternate cuts.

A Blue Ridge Mountain-bred artist who grew up in Western Maryland in a musical family, she learned violin, trombone and guitar from an early age. After college Diane moved to Washington, DC where she frequented jazz clubs Blues Alley, One Step Down and Mr. Y's Soul Kitchen, absorbing the sounds of local legends Charlie Byrd and Shirley Horn, hearing national acts, as well as honing her own skills in those rooms. In 1986 she moved to New York City and was awarded a one-year jazz fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts for private study with vocalist Anne Marie Moss. She also studied piano, voice and guitar privately with premier NY jazz artists Barry Harris, Harold Danko, Connie Crothers, Sheila Jordan, Jay Clayton, Howard Alden and John Hart.

Diane Hubka has recorded and/or performed with jazz luminaries Lee Konitz, Bucky Pizzarelli, Harold Danko, Paul Bollenback, Frank Kimbrough, John Hart, John Pisano, Gene Bertocini, Joe LaBarbera, Carl Saunders, Larry Koonse, and the Brazilian Trio Da Paz. She headlined in major jazz clubs appearing in New York's Blue Note, Birdland and Knitting Factory, the Central PA Jazz Festival, the Philadelphia Guitar Show, Washington D.C.'s Blues Alley, Soloist with the Western MD Symphony; Jazz Corner in Hilton Head, SC, and LA's Jazz Bakery, Steamers LACMA, Vitello's and Charlie O's. In March 2008 she headlined at Nardis Jazz Club in Istanbul, Turkey. In Japan she appeared at JZBrat, Tokyo TUC, Cotton Club, Satin Doll, Jazz on Top, Jazz Inn Lovely and Life Time Cafe.