

# Judy Wexler



Judy Wexler's journey to jazz singing followed a somewhat circuitous route. Judy was always musical, having studied piano since the age of 5...those pedals were tough to reach! At college, she began to follow an intensive program of classical piano, devoting most of her evening hours to the UC Santa Cruz practice rooms. At that time, her exposure to jazz was minimal -- mostly through listening to Dave Brubeck and Carmen McRae albums, and

taking a few jazz piano lessons.

After graduation, her acting work with a theater company led her to San Francisco. Lucky for her, her future husband was living in the flat upstairs. A long-time jazz fan himself, he introduced her to the music of Coltrane, Miles Davis, Eddie Jefferson, Dexter Gordon, and Oliver Nelson. When they moved together to North Beach, they lived just up the block from the legendary Keystone Korner, and spent many nights attending concerts by Elvin Jones, Sarah Vaughan, Eddie Jefferson and Richie Cole, Dexter Gordon, and on and on. Judy's appreciation for jazz grew. A move to Los Angeles and marriage followed, where Judy pursued an acting career and appeared in many plays and a few TV shows, most notably a guest starring role on the long-running *Frasier*.

After many years, she quit acting and turned her focus to jazz piano, first studying jazz harmony at the Grove School of Music, and then for several years with acclaimed jazz pianist, Terry Trotter — the goal to accompany herself. After more than three years, though, she decided to focus solely on singing (her primary love!) and work with the great pianists who live in the Los Angeles area.

*Easy on the Heart* marks Judy's debut CD release. It is a modern, eclectic mix of standards, pop tunes, and lesser-known tunes deserving greater recognition. Produced by Barbara Brighton and arranged by piano great, Alan Pasqua, it was released on March 15, 2005 to critical acclaim and is getting extensive radio airplay. *Easy on the Heart* remained on the JazzWeek Charts for over 6 weeks.

"Easy on the Heart has one memorable performance after another. Wexler interprets the diverse material with sensitivity and understated swing, sticking to the lyrics and putting plenty of feeling into the words."

**Scott Yanow**  
*Jazziz*

"Hard-swinging but with a definite romantic streak, Wexler is someone admirers of Abbey Lincoln or Dianne Reeves should have no problem getting into—and she's someone who shows a lot of promise on her memorable debut album."

**Alex Henderson**  
*All Music Guide*

This is one special jazz vocal debut album from Los Angeles area-based Judy Wexler. This album stands miles ahead in the proliferating femme jazz vocal field."

**Michael Gladstone**  
*All About Jazz*

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