



Laura Campisi

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An award-winning songwriter and jazz singer from Sicily, Italy and based in New York since 2011, Laura has performed with various musical ensembles throughout Europe, America and Canada, and continues to produce a wide range of music: from Jazz and Folk, to the traditional Sicilian repertoire as well as Italian and Mediterranean songs. She also writes original compositions in English, Italian and Sicilian, and sings in Italian, English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Punjabi, Sicilian and Neapolitan. In 2017 Laura has released her debut album *Double Mirror* that was welcomed with high praises by the international press, including the prestigious *Downbeat Magazine*, and featured in the Best of 2017 by both *Cadence Magazine* and *All About Jazz*. In 2018, Laura was featured as one of 5 main characters in *The Ward Cabaret* (Toronto, Canada) singing and acting as an Italian immigrant in the early Twentieth Century. In 2021 she released a video and a single with her personal rendition of the Jazz masterpiece *Strange Fruit*, a staple song of the civil rights movement.

Performance Experience and Credits

Producing, recording and self-releasing the single and music video **Strange Fruit** (2021)

Performing in NYC, Chicago and Boston with her project **Sicily Revisited** (2019)

- representing Sicilian music tradition and re-interpreting it in a Jazz key
- featured in the web series **Sicilian Rhapsody**

Featured as a main character in **The Ward Cabaret** (Toronto, 2018)

- sang and acted as an Italian immigrant to Canada in the early '900
- performed songs in Italian as well as English and Hebrew, as a soloist and in a choir
- dancing, memorizing lines and stage presence

Producing, recording and self-releasing the album **Double Mirror** (2017)

- wrote and/or arranged 13 tracks for a double trio band (Gregory Hutchinson, Ameen Saleem, Gianluca Renzi, Flavio Li Vigni), plus international guests (Vincent Herring, Jonathan Scales, Zach Brock, Martin Pantyrer and Giovanni Falzone)
- curated logistics, financial and artistic management, social media presence, release party at DROM, NY
- worked alongside with Argentinian artistic producer Emilio D. Miler and American PR persons for press and radio (to read album's reviews go to <https://www.lauracampisi.com/reviews>)

Touring with Canadian guitarist, composer and producer **Michael Occhipinti and The Sicilian Project** as special guest vocalist (2016)

- performed original and traditional repertoire in Sicilian language with Jazz and Latin arrangements
- performed in Canada as well as in the US as lead person on stage and engaging with different audiences

Featured, as a composer, on drummer Marcello Pellitteri's album **Aquarius Woman** (2016)

- an instrumental version of her composition *Colors On Your Face* is featured in the album
- performed the song as a special guest at the CD release party at Birdland, NY

Appearing on the book **Dall'altra parte della luna** (*On The Other Side of The Moon*) by Italian journalist Lucio Luca, a recollection of stories about Sicilians who made their ways in the United States (2015)

Featured as a special guest on the album **Prospero** by the Gianni Gebbia Magnetic Trio (2014)

- performed and wrote original lyrics for the featured song *Never Been So Well*

Founder, composer and vocalist of the **Laura Campisi Trio and Quartet** (2014-)

- wrote and arranged original songs in English for voice, guitar, bass and drums
- performed at notable venues in NYC such as Zinc Bar and Cornelia Street Cafe among others

Appearing (interview and performance) in the documentary film “**Walnut Street Station – Last Jazz Stop From NY**” by Italian director Gianluca Bozzo (2014)

- as a young Italian musician living and performing in the United States
- as an artist creating her own unique sound out of American Jazz and Italian tradition

Creator of the project “**Vedrai Vedrai: Music of Luigi Tenco & More**” (2014)

- arranged and interpreted Italian music from the ‘50s to present
- wrote original lyrics to American Jazz Standards
- performed at The Kitano Jazz in New York City, who commissioned the project

Vocalist in the **Nawaz Doga Ensemble**, New York (2013-2016)

- performed ancient Sufi songs in Sanskrit and modern Punjabi music in Urdu
- performed at the New York University, NY

Participating in the project “Improvise Options” for the **XIII International “Biennale di Venezia”** with an improvised performance commissioned by the eminent architecture festival in Venice, Italy (2012)

Appearing and performing in the documentary film “**La voce di Rosa**” by Italian director Nello Correale (2011)

- as an expert of Sicilian traditional music
- as an interpreter of the repertoire of famous Sicilian folk singer Rosa Balistreri

Vocalist of the African drumming ensemble **Jambo Sana** (2010)

- produced arrangements for voice and African drums from Guinea
- sang in both traditional Malinké and Sicilian languages
- played djembe, krin, tammorra and shakers with group as needed

Founder, composer and vocalist of the project **Lalla Into the Garden** (2008-2011)

- wrote and arranged original songs in Italian for voice, accordion, cello, guitars and drums
- participated and won in a number of national and international competitions in Italy

Co-founder and vocalist of ‘**Na Rosa e Un Tulipanu** (2006-2009)

- performed in duo with Dutch bassist Marko Bonarius
- arranged and interpreted rare and original compositions by Sicilian folk singer, Rosa Balistreri
- featured in the 2007 tribute album *Buon Compleanno Rosa*

Honors and Awards

- “*Rosa Balistreri e Alberto Favara*” Award for the active role in spreading Sicilian music in the world (2011)
- *First Place and Interpretation Prize*, Bianca d’Aponte Competition for female songwriting (2010)
- *First Place*, Barrique Live Contest (2010)
- *Winner of the Siae Prize*, “Un Giorno Insieme-Augusto Daolio-Città Di Sulmona” Competition (2009)
- *First Place*, Lucca Jazz Donna for female jazz performed and bandleaders (2009)
- *Winner of the Paladino Award* for original music and poetry in Sicilian (2009)
- *First Place*, “Concorso della canzone popolare Siciliana” for original and traditional Sicilian music (2007)

Publications

Strange Fruit

Single and Music Video, self-released, USA (2021)

Double Mirror

Official debut album, self released, USA (2017)

Other Published Compositions

- “Colors On Your Face” appeared in *Aquarius Woman* (2016)
 - “Hot Tin Top” appeared in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by the Bushwick Book Club (2016)
 - “Never Been So Well” appeared in *Prospero* (2014)
 - “Cuorefisarmonica” appeared in *Sono Un'isola 6* (2010)
 - “Cuorefisarmonica” appeared in *LiveMi Vol. 7* on iTunes (2010)
 - “Da quando Elisa se n'è andata” and “Cuorefisarmonica” appeared in *Ai Chiavettieri* (2009)
 - “Il Tempo Scorre” appeared in *Sono Un'isola 4* (2008)
 - “Me Muggheri (unn'havi pila)” appeared in *Buon Compleanno Rosa* (2007)
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Education

Bachelors in Arts, *summa cum laude* in Musical Arts, University of Palermo, Italy (2007)
 Specialization in Ethnomusicology, with thesis on the life and works of Sicilian folk singer Rosa Balistreri. Title of Thesis: “*U Radicuni, ” History of a Bond. Rosa Balistreri: The Land and the Protest.*”

Private Voice and Music Training

- Jazz and Composition Studies with **Aaron Goldberg** — New York, NY (2012)
- Vocal Study with **Maria Pia De Vito** — Saint Louis College of Music—Rome, Italy (2010)
- Jazz Studies with **Salvatore Bonafede** — Palermo, Italy (2008-2010)
- Vocal Study with **Loredana Spata** —Palermo, Italy (1997-2004)

Master Classes

- Berklee College of Music, Online Songwriting Course with Pat Pattison (2015)
 - Piazza Jazz 2011: Advanced Specialist Course in Jazz Music, with Steve Swallow (2011)
 - Castellammare Jazz: Advanced, Palermo Jazz Scuola Internazionale di musica with Michele Hendricks, Bob Stoloff, Aaron Goldberg (2011)
 - Indian Dhrupad Singing, with Amelia Cuni (2010)
 - Indian Classical Singing, with Sangeeta Bandyopadhyay (2009)
 - Roma Jazz's Cool: Advanced, with Norma Winstone, Jeff Tain Watts, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Scott Colley, Joey Calderazzo, Salvatore Bonafede (2008)
 - Vocal Jazz Techniques, with Rachele Ferrell (2007)
 - Nuoro Jazz: Advanced, with Maria Pia De Vito, Dave Liebman, Paolo Fresu, Tomaso Lama, Attilio Zanchi, Ettore Fioravanti, Tino Tracanna, Roberto Cipelli (2007)
 - Roma Jazz's Cool: Intermediate (2006)
 - Ensemble Performance and Arranging, with Giovanni Mazzarino (2004)
 - Jazz Improvisation Skills, with Mark Murphy (2004)
 - Jazz Lab, with Cinzia Spata (2002)
 - Vocal Jazz Techniques, with Norma Winstone (2000)
 - Workshop on Music from Porgy and Bess, with Salvatore Bonafede (2000)
 - Jazz Standard Repertoire, with Sheila Jordan (1999)
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Skills

Language Skills:

Native fluency in Italian

Fluency in English - TOEFL Test score: 110/120 (March 2015)

Reading and verbal fluency in Spanish

Reading and verbal competency in French

Writes original compositions in English, Italian and Sicilian

Sings in Italian, English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Punjabi, Sicilian and Neapolitan

Other Relevant Skills:

Songwriting, arranging, basic piano, ukulele and guitar