

# LAURA CAMPISI - BIO

An award-winning songwriter and jazz singer based out in New York City, 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.

Since in New York, Laura has performed at many prestigious jazz clubs and cultural venues in NYC such as Birdland, Kitano Jazz Club, Zinc Bar, Bar Next Door, Cornelia Street Cafe, New York University, the Center for Italian Modern Art (CIMA), the Westchester Italian Cultural Center and the Italian American Museum, among others. She has also performed at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, in front of 3.000 people, with the SGI Youth Ensemble. She has collaborated with many accomplished international musicians such as Ameen Saleem, Jon Davis, Tommy Campbell, Freddie Bryant, Saul Rubin, Gianluca Renzi, Fabio Morgera and Salvatore Bonafede, to name a few. In 2013-15, she collaborated with the Pakistani cultural community in New York, getting Pakistani players involved in her bands, mixing their sounds with Jazz and Italian music while challenging herself with Sufi traditional compositions in Sanskrit and with Punjabi music.

International performance highlights of Laura Campisi include *Sing Ballads and Be Happy*, an original project presented in New York in the summer of 2015, in trio with Jon Davis and Ameen Saleem, as well as in Rome with acclaimed Italian pianist Claudio Filippini; presenting her project *Sicily Revisited* at the Italian American Museum in New York in June 2014 and bringing it out to Italy later that Summer; the show *Vedrai Vedrai, Music of Luigi Tenco and Beyond* created for the Kitano Jazz Club of New York, and there presented in April 2014; an Italian tour on January 2014 with the *Back Home Trio* (with special guest international saxophonist Gianni Gebbia) and on January 2013 with the *Laura Campisi Roma Quartet* featuring Domenico Sanna and Enrico Zanisi on piano, Luca Fattorini on bass and Enrico Morello on drums; an appearance in the documentary film by director Nello Correale *La voce di Rosa*; the Rosa Balistreri e Alberto Favara Award in 2011 for her active role in spreading Sicilian music and culture in the world; a 2010 winter tour in New York City; first place at the 2010 Bianca D'Aponte Award, a competition dedicated to female songwriting; first place at the 2009 Lucca Jazz Donna Award, and a performance, later that year, at the Italian Embassy in Lisbon for the Festa della Repubblica; a tour in Paris in 2008; and an appearance at the Langnau Jazz Festival in Switzerland in 2004.

Laura is featured on *Walnut Street Station*, a documentary film on the American and Italian Jazz scene in New York and New Jersey by director Gianluca Bozzo (2014). She's also featured on the album *Prospero*, by Gianni Gebbia's *Magnetic Trio* (2014), with the song *Never been so well* which she performs and wrote original lyrics for. An instrumental version of her composition *Colors on your face* is also featured on Marcello Pellitteri's new album *Aquarius Woman* (2016).

Laura's story is featured in the book *Dall'altra parte della luna (On The Other Side of The Moon)* by journalist Lucio Luca, a recollection of interviews to Sicilians who made their ways in the United States. She has been a guest at many radio and TV shows both in American and Italy.

Laura is about to release her debut album *Double Mirror* (out on July 14, 2017), a double trio

featuring international jazz stars drummer Gregory Hutchinson and bassist Ameen Saleem, together with Italian bassist Gianluca Renzi and drummer Flavio Li Vigni, plus special guests Vincent Herring, Jonathan Scales, Zach Brock, Martin Pantyrer and Giovanni Falzone.

She's also working on the project *Sicily Revisited*, a tribute to her roots through a modern, jazz – infused rendition of Sicilian traditional tunes. The project, born in 2014, features international jazz pianist Andrea Beneventano and bassist Alberto Fidone.

Laura is an expert of Sicilian musical tradition; she is a voice teacher and a musical clinician, with a Bachelor Degree in Musical Arts.