

## MARIANNE MATHENY-KATZ BIOGRAPHY

Baltimore songstress Marianne Matheny-Katz releases a new album in May 2014. *Somewhere in Paradise* features engaging jazz standards with surprising new arrangements. Jazz critic John Murph calls Matheny-Katz “a captivating singer [who] possesses a quintessential jazz voice, which she enlivens with lissome, conversational phrasing.”

The disc features some of Baltimore’s best musicians, including reed players Todd Marcus, Tim Green, Craig Alston; bassist Eric Wheeler; pianist Vince Evans; drummer Eric Kennedy; and superstar Warren Wolf on vibraphone, piano and drums. Also featured is Philadelphia trumpeter Terrell Stafford.

Born in Staten Island, Matheny-Katz spent her teens singing folk music in coffeehouses. She left the stage for a decade to raise a family, but could not stay away. After a move to the Mid-Atlantic region, she returned as a blues singer. For 11 years, she performed and recorded with Park House Jam, a popular Maryland based blues group.

Her first move into jazz was in 2000, when she entered Baltimore’s annual Billie Holiday competition. She took second place in the prestigious competition that year and again in 2002. She was subsequently invited to perform in a Billie Holiday tribute concert at Artscape 2010 at Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall.

Matheny-Katz studied jazz vocals with Vince Evans, JD Walter and Jay Clayton. She formed the M2K Jazz Ensemble in 2003. She has performed in the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival, New Jersey Jazz Festival, Patterson Park Concert series (seven times), Artscape, the Eubie Blake Center, Germano’s, The Carlyle Club, Acton Jazz Café (near Boston), and often at the Tremont, Radisson, and Colonnade Hotels in Baltimore.

In 2007 she and her husband Howard Katz opened Jazzway 6004, presenting top-notch local and touring talent. (*Downbeat Magazine* named it one of the nation’s top three house concert venues.) The two are also producing a documentary film on Baltimore jazz, directed by Jonathan Bevers. “Tell Me More—and Then Some” is due out in 2015. Meanwhile Matheny-Katz maintains a busy performance schedule.