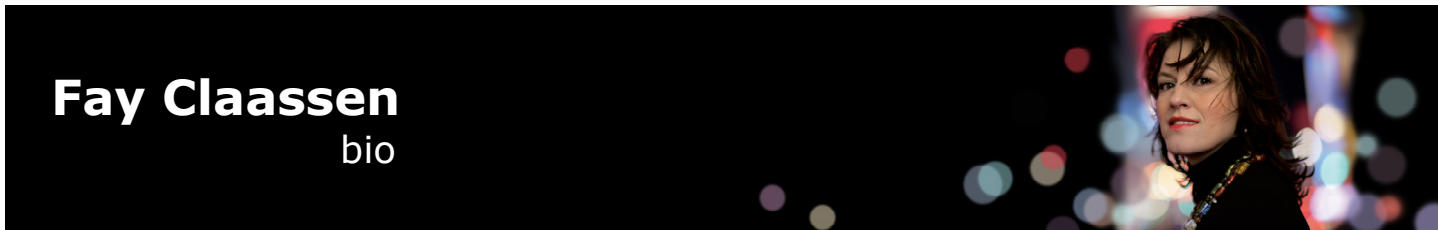


Fay Claassen

bio



"Fay Claassen is to singing what Audrey Hepburn was to the movies: elegant and graceful."
CADENCE, USA

"Fay Claassen sings with the impeccable timing and faultless diction for which she is renowned. She negotiates complex melodic lines with great facility and sings the lyrics with great conviction and feeling. She has a confidence and élan that comes from ten years of live performance experience."
MIKE HENNESSEY

Fay Claassen's last album *Red, Hot and Blue* got her placed on the Grammy pre-nomination list for the "Best Jazz Vocal Album 2009". For *The Shakespeare Album*, she received the Dutch "Edison Award". It is the most renowned music prize of the Netherlands, comparable to the "Echo" in Germany or the "Grammy Award" in the USA.

Fay was born on December 2nd, 1969, in Nijmegen (the Netherlands). First of all, she trained in dance and ballet at the ballet academy in Arnheim before, in 1990, she studied vocal jazz with Rachel Gould at the royal conservatory in Den Haag. During her studies, in which she received two prizes ("Onderscheiding van Uitmuntendheid") for jazz timing and jazz improvisation, she began her professional career as a jazz singer in the bands of, among others, Tony Overwater, Carolyn Breuer and the Amsterdam Jazz Quintett.

She works with such musicians as Barry Harris (on the first solo CD, *With a Song in my Heart*, in the year 2000 for Challenge Records), Toots Thielemans, Mike Stern, and Kenny Werner (*Rhythms and Rhymes*, 2002), Rita Reys (North Sea Jazz Festival 2008). From 2005 to 2008, she was a member of the formation "One Heart, Three Voices" with the singers David Linx and Maria Pia DeVito. She was guest soloist with the "Metropole Orchestra" in the years 2006, 2007, and 2008 under the direction of Vincent Mendoza and Jim McNeely. She gave concerts with the Sky Masters, the jazz orchestra of the Concertgebouw, the WDR Big Band, and the Danish Radio Big Band under the direction of Jim McNeely.

Up to now, Fay Claassen has published five CDs under her own name. In September, Fay's new CD *SING!* will be released, a recording with the WDR Big Band and the WDR Rundfunk Orchestra of Cologne, Germany, conducted and arranged by Michael Abene. As a guest soloist, she can be heard on fifteen additional CDs.

Her project "2 Portraits of Chet Baker" brought her worldwide euphoric reviews, as well as the first "Chet Baker Award", in 2006 in Amsterdam, a first place in the "All about Jazz" - critics poll in New York and the "Choc" from the French jazz magazine "Jazzman".

In 2006, she was on tour with her trio in Japan, gave concerts at the North Sea Jazz Festival (1998, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2008), at the jazz festivals in Namur, Brosele, Brussels (Belgium), the Kilkenny Arts Festival (Ireland), Jazz Á Junas, the Paris Jazz Festival, the Berlin Days of Jazz, the Music Triennial 2007 in Cologne, the Jazz Festival Viersen, Jazz Maastricht, the Hilden Days of Jazz, the Monte Carlo Jazz Festival, the Reims Jazz Festival. She gave master classes and concerts at the International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) in Los Angeles and New York. She is to be heard on all the important stages of Europe both with her own groups, and as guest in other musicians' projects.

Musicians such as, among others, Diederik Wissels, Ivan Paduart, Bert Joris, Robert Jan Vermeulen, Michael Abene, as well as song writers such as David Linx, Robin Goldsby, Joy Misa and others appreciate her extraordinary interpretational and improvisational talent and have written many compositions and texts especially for her, on which Fay Claassen has always put her individual stamp in her 20-year professional career.

Teaching

From 2001 to 2007, Fay Claassen directed the Jazz Vocal Department of the conservatory "ESMAE" in Porto (Portugal) as successor to the singer Maria João.

Since 2002, she has been the major-subject teacher for vocal jazz at the conservatory "CODARTS" in Rotterdam (Netherlands).

Since 2007, she has taught regular master classes once a month at the conservatory "ARTHESIS" in Antwerp (Belgium).

Since 2004, she has been on the teaching team of the *summer workshop* of the conservatory of Amsterdam in cooperation with the "Manhattan School of Music".

In 2006, Fay Claassen gave master classes at the IAJE in New York.

Fay Claassen has given workshops in Wepion (Belgium), Dunkirk (France), Klagenfurt (Austria), Bern (Switzerland), as well as at the conservatories in Groningen, The Hague, Zwolle, Enschede and Arnhem in the Netherlands.

"Lyrical improvisations are Fay Claassen's speciality. She can let her clear voice blend with the instruments or give it free rein in the jazz solos".

AMANDA KUYPER

international bookings:

Musikbüro Gert Pfankuch

Niederhofheimer Str. 45 a-c

65719 Hofheim

tel. +49 (0)6192 901372

fax +49 (0)6192 5789

info@musikbuero-pfankuch.de

www.musikbuero-pfankuch.de