

Nancy Erickson
Jazz Vocalist
2012 Seattle-Kobe Jazz Vocalist Winner

"Nancy Erickson is a superb singer. If you haven't heard her because she is nicely tucked away in the Pacific Northwest, you will be rewarded once you do." – Michael Steinman, Jazz Lives

"Nancy Erickson belongs on the same page as many of the best in jazz vocals." - Les Reynolds, Indie-Music.com

"A skilled singer who is also an excellent songwriter...Ms. Erickson has an appealing tone, does justice to lyrics and swings." – Scott Yanow, Los Angeles Jazz Scene

Nancy Erickson has been bringing her rich, melodic vocals to the Pacific Northwest Jazz scene for over 3 decades. Hailed as "one of our best contemporary singers – full of feeling, wit... and a thoroughly winning originality" (Michael Steinman – Jazz Lives), Nancy released her third solo CD "Nancy Erickson – Here and Now" in August, 2018. This album was recorded live by Jim Wilke (Jazz Northwest – KNKX) and includes unique arrangements of jazz standards (Honeysuckle Rose, Hot House, Night in Tunisia), some non-jazz tunes (Sting's 'Fragile'), and an original piece (Let Love Begin) written by Nancy Erickson & Darin Clendenin. "Here and Now" features the musical skills of the 200 Trio (Greg Feingold, Cole Schuster, Max Holmberg) and Alex Dugdale.

In 2012, Nancy won the Seattle Kobe Female Jazz Vocalist Competition. This resulted in performances in Kobe, Japan, including Asahi Hall which was also broadcast live online to over 5,000 viewers. With influences like Nancy Wilson, Frank Sinatra, Dianne Reeves, and Peggy Lee, Nancy's rich, mellow alto voice has been compared to Karen Carpenter and Diana Krall. Nancy Erickson is an excellent musical story-teller who lays her heart open and sings with straightforward vulnerability.

Born and raised in Salem, Oregon, Nancy Erickson has studied music her entire life starting with piano from the age of 6, vocal jazz from age 13, and classical voice at age 15. She adds, "When I was growing up, all types of music were ever-present in my home. We listened to everything from Frank Sinatra, Don Ellis, Peggy Lee, & Louis Armstrong to The Beatles, Blood, Sweat & Tears, Frank Zappa, and The Band". The music that filled her home became the foundation that would yield one of the more versatile musicians in Seattle.

Nancy relocated to the Seattle area as a young adult and studied music theory & directing at Edmonds Community College under Frank DeMiero. Performance credits include the North Sea Jazz Festival in the Netherlands & the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland. She has had the opportunity of sharing the stage with such greats as Ernestine Anderson, Mark Murphy, the Hi-Lo's, and The Four Freshmen. Other notable appearances have been with Matt Catingub, Tom

Kubis, Bill Ramsey, Roger Treece, Michael Powers, and Lenny Williams. Nancy recorded and co-produced a Christmas CD entitled "Urban Christmas" in 1993 under the group name, 'Xebec' with saxophonist EJ Erickson and pianist Chris Welch. Shortly after this she took a break from jazz performance, later returning to public performance singing backup with the Northwest R&B band Freddy Pink. She also did some backup work with the band Nearly Dan (a Steely Dan tribute band) and sang in Praise! with Bernadette Bascom and studied jazz improvisation with Johnaye Kendrick.

In 2009 Nancy returned to her jazz roots; "I'd been singing other styles in various bands, but when I came back to jazz singing I remembered where my heart lies musically." Nancy Erickson's passion for jazz music is demonstrated in her pin-drop ballads and the rapport she has with her band and the audience. She has appeared on KNKX Seattle's studio sessions in 2017 & 2018 (links to entire session available online) and her recent venues have included North City Bistro, Tula's Jazz Club, La Spiga Restaurant, Seattle Jazz Vespers, and the Royal Room. Nancy teaches private voice, is the choral & jazz band II director at Glacier Peak High School & choral director at Valley View Middle School in Snohomish, WA, and is a board member of Seattle Women in Jazz.