

Daria – Long Bio

"It's a voice that utterly captivated me the first time I heard it... The voice of Daria in action. No matter what she was singing, embracing the balladry of Great American Songbook standards, romping through familiar pop tunes, swinging jazz riffs, dipping into the roots of the blues and beyond. And it was vividly apparent, even in her early albums, that Daria was (and is) a singer with the talent to place her in the upper levels of the jazz vocal art."

– Don Heckman, The International Review of Music

An acclaimed jazz vocalist with a beautiful voice, a deep understanding of the lyrics she interprets in a wide range of rhythms and styles. Her most recent project, released on award winning Origin Records, is a unique and inventive exploration of the music of the Beatles entitled "*Strawberry Fields Forever, Songs by the Beatles*," co-produced by bassist/arranger Sam Bevan and Daria.

Daria was born and raised in San Francisco, growing up as part of a uniquely creative family. Her mother spoke five languages, was a professor of creative writing at San Francisco State University, the Fromm Institute and is a published author. Her father was a first violinist with the San Francisco Symphony, a solo artist and sleight-of-hand magician. "When I was six, my father started taking me to symphony rehearsals. I remember seeing all of the musicians up there on the big stage and it gave me chills. I knew very quickly that I wanted to spend my life around music."

As a small child, she had the opportunity to meet such celebrities as Danny Kaye, Phyllis Diller and Benny Goodman, among others. Daria studied classical piano for ten years and gained early experience singing in choruses, choirs and madrigal groups. A turning point in her life occurred when she was 13. She turned on the radio one day and found a station that played jazz from the 1920s and '30s. "I got hooked on that station and couldn't stop listening. I became fascinated with all the different jazz styles and harmonies, and was blown away by everything that I listened to." Her father encouraged her to pursue her studies in classical voice and piano. However, Daria knew that her music career would be going in a different and more innovative direction.

After a period studying acting and music at San Francisco State, Daria began performing regularly in jazz clubs. She studied improv with Bobby McFerrin, was mentored by Mark Murphy and Maye Cavallaro and studied Brazilian music with Celia Malheiros, among others. She developed her own style using the three-octave range of her soulful voice as an instrument.

In 1998, Daria made her first recording (EP) as a bandleader entitled "*Just The Beginning*," produced by percussionist Ian Dogole. Although originally conceived as a demo, it received rave reviews, gained international airplay and established her as a new and important artist. While "*Just The Beginning*" offered a contemporary take on standards and featured one of her original songs, "Japanese Love Affair," her next CD, "*Feel The Rhythm*," produced and arranged by pianist Frank Martin and seven-time Grammy nominee Wayne Wallace, was a

giant step forward. It not only featured Daria's talents as a singer, but as a songwriter who contributed three of her original songs. The title track, "Feel The Rhythm," received Honorable Mention from the Billboard World Music Competition.

Performing songs that were as much World Music as they were jazz, Daria's singing sounds effortless over odd time meters and exotic African, Rhumba and Brazilian rhythms. Her intonation is perfect, and her range is outstanding. With each note she celebrates the richness of Latin and world cultures in fresh and creative ways.

"Five Big Shining Stars!" – **The Jazz Review**

"Daria is the real deal." – **All About Jazz**

Daria's live performances are engaging, entertaining and original. She has shared the stage with Bob Dorough, Ricki Lee Jones, Diana Krall, Bonnie Raitt, Elvis Costello, Dan Hicks, Tuck and Patti, Dave Grisman, Maria Muldaur, Joe Sample, Harold Jones, Lawrence Hobgood, Christian McBride, Abe Laboriel, Harvie S, Jose Neto, Lewis Nash, Marcos Silva, Harvey Wainapel, Wayne Wallace, Frank Martin and Alex Acuna, among many others.

She has received international airplay and performed at clubs and festivals worldwide from the San Francisco Bay Area to Montreux Jazz Festival and beyond.

For over ten years, Daria toured the world as a vocalist, percussionist and melodica player for the legendary *Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks*. She continues to perform with *The Hot Licks*, who are keeping the legacy of Dan Hicks' music alive.

Daria's singing has evolved and matured through the years, growing in strength and sensitivity. "I sang 30's/40's swing and was in a number of jazz fusion bands in my earlier days, in addition to singing Pop, R&B and Brazilian music. For me, it's all coming full circle and I'm combining elements of all the styles I love. I used to be very technical in my singing, but now the emotion and the lyrics have become more important to me."

On her most recent project, *"Strawberry Fields Forever, Songs by the Beatles,"* Daria breaks new ground and is joined by some of the most creative Bay Area musicians. Listeners will hear these famous songs in a new light. She also contributed an original tune, an homage to "She's Leaving Home," entitled "She's Going Home."

"Daria successfully reinvents 10 Lennon-McCartney standards for the jazz idiom. Daria's phrasing throughout the album is marked by unusual hesitations that give a new perspective to the lyrics. When she purrs, 'You can knit a sweater by the fireside,' she makes it sound like a sensual delight." – **DownBeat**

One can really appreciate what Mark Murphy said about this versatile vocalist: *"Daria has all the elements of the great jazz singers – complete musicality, bravery, intense commitment to you, her listener, to give you her very best. And the voice? Just lovely, that's all!"*

– **Scott Yanow**, Jazz Critic/Author