Janet Planet

Described as a **“The voice of the new jazz culture with seemingly limitless expression” by Jazziz Magazine,** the spirited and vivacious **Janet Planet** has been self-produced and managed for the majority of her 40-year career.

Janet Planet has been paying her dues and studying the craft of singing for over four decades, steadily building a career that began with a high school talent show performance.

Coming from a small Midwestern town in the U.S. she grew up in a family who played music all the time. Her father played piano and her mother sang in the church choir.

After High School she started to pursue her dream to become a professional singer. Her further education came from the school of “Do”. Taking advantage of every opportunity, from singing telegrams to concert stages.

 Along the way she was mentored by some great jazz composers who wrote and arranged pieces for the fledgling singer. In 1984 she was approached by composer/pianist John Harmon to join forces and soon after jazz composer/synthesist, Chris Swansen joined. Her second album “Sweet Thunder” was released on Seabreeze jazz label out of Los Angeles CA.

The 1985 release “Sweet Thunder” brought Janet to the attention of Steve Allen who wrote, “There are so many dumb and inarticulate singers today. It’s a pleasure to hear someone who knows what singing is all about.” As the past century closed and a new one began, music critics have noted her arrival as an accomplished artist.

**"Janet Planet is such an exemplary vocal artiste that anything she graces with her vocal chords benefits. … [S]he can sing sweet and pretty but she can also come on strong with a big voice that never wavers out of control, even in a naked setting." (Cadence Magazine)**

In 1995 she started her own independent jazz label
“Stellar Records”.

Recording music has been a mainstay in her career and to date she has 24 albums in her discography.

In 2017, "Janet Planet - Just Like a Woman - The Music of Bob Dylan, Vol. 2" was up for GRAMMY consideration.  In 2018, “John Harmon and Janet Planet Da Capo” and in 2021 “Under the Venus Moon” was considered for the GRAMMY.

A busy concert schedule has taken her to performing arts centers, opera houses, colleges, universities, jazz festivals and jazz clubs across the USA.

New York City performances include Jazz At Kitano, The Jazz Standard, St. Peter's Jazz Church, The Metropolitan Room and Feinstein's.

International tours include Europe, Russia, South Africa and Japan, where she co­founded the First Fraternity of Musicians in the city of Nagasaki in 2000. In 2014 Planet was inducted in to the WAMI Hall of Fame.

Active in all aspects of the business, she is a performer, producer, teacher, recording artist, voice-over talent, and commercial singer.  On the jazz faculty at Lawrence University, she also co-owns Steel Moon Recording Studio and Stellar Records with her husband, Tom Washatka.

“When it comes to understanding a lyric and the music behind it, Janet Planet “gets it”. Her soulful, heartfelt readings, with perfectly in tune, pure voice “from heaven” brings the music to us on a silver platter, and really hits home”.

Gene Bertoncini, Jazz Guitarist