

Sarah Partridge *Bio*



Singing along to a karaoke machine on a dare is not the way most aspiring singers begin their careers; however, this is how jazz singer Sarah Partridge got her start. While enjoying a successful and busy career as an actress, Partridge went to the Improv in Los Angeles with friends, to enjoy a night out. A karaoke contest began and her chums urged her to participate, “just for fun.” Partridge, a jazz enthusiast, reluctantly agreed and eventually found an “elevators only” version of *Summertime*. Her beautiful, rich voice captivated an L.A. booker, who assumed that she was a professional jazz singer. Before she could say “help” she found herself billed as the featured vocalist in a live jazz salute. This was not an easy accomplishment considering

that she knew only ten songs all the way through. Yet, she was a smashing success and hasn’t taken a backward step from that evening on.

Spending most of her childhood in Boston and attending high school in Alabama, Sarah claims that her father is responsible for her love of jazz. From the time she was born, the only music Sarah heard around the house was Ella Fitzgerald, Chris Connor, Dakota Staton, Irene Kral and of course, Sarah Vaughan. While other kids were singing nursery rhymes, Sarah was humming “Lush Life.” She couldn’t have avoided this music if she tried.

Partridge also developed a keen interest in acting at a young age. After receiving her Theater degree from Northwestern University, Partridge stayed in Chicago and landed her first feature film role -- opposite Tom Cruise in the smash hit, *Risky Business*. She then headed west to L.A., where she acted in several film roles and became actively involved in doing commercials and voice-overs. Throughout the late eighties and early nineties, Partridge could be seen guest starring in many TV series, sitcoms and soap operas... then came that fateful night at the Improv; an old dream reawakened, she soon shifted the focus of her life back to music.

Sarah has been spotted entertaining audiences at many notable haunts on both coasts such as, New York’s fabled *Oak Room at The Algonquin Hotel*, *The Hideaway*, *Delmonico’s*, *The Jazz Standard*, *Blues Alley* in Washington, D.C. and L.A. jazz spots like *Catalina’s Bar & Grill*, *The Jazz Bakery Spazio*, *The Vic* and the former Hollywood landmark, the *Cinegrill*. She is consistently pegged as “pick of the week” in newspapers on both coasts.

Until his death in early June of 1997, Sarah could often be found sharing the bandstand with her pal, legendary jazz giant, Doc Cheatham. She was a fixture at his Sunday afternoon jazz brunches at New York’s Sweet Basil Restaurant. They also teamed at other local clubs such as Metropolis and New Jersey’s, Trumpets. He affectionately referred to her as “A woman of high voltage!”

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Sarah Partridge *Timeline*

CD Releases

2009 – Digital Download release of the fourth CD ***Perspective***. Pre-orders are taken for the physical CD release date of January, 2010.

2006 – Third CD release - ***Songs For My Father***

2003 – Second CD release - ***Blame It On My Youth***

1998 – Initial CD release - ***I'll Be Easy To Find***



Sarah with Doc Cheatham

Performance Highlights Listed Geographically:

Boston

Scullers Jazz Club

Chicago

Andy's Jazz Club

Davenport's

Denver

Dazzle Jazz Club

Los Angeles

Catalina Bar and Grill

Cinegrill at The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel

The Vic

Lunaria

Spazio

Vine Street Bar and Grill

New York

The Oak Room at The Algonquin Hotel (2005, 2006, 2008)

The Jazz Standard (feat. Allen Farnham, Grady Tate, Jay Leonhart and Warren Vache)

Metropolis (with Doc Cheatham and his NY All Stars)

Washington D.C.

Blues Alley

Jazz Related Television Highlights:

Good Morning America, ABC - Named *GMA Breakout Artist*, 2006

Fox 5 Morning Show, FOX (WFXT MyFox25) Boston, MA.

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Ms. Partridge belongs to a tradition of jazz singers who use hard rhythm as a kind of emotional armor. Instead of exploring the interior worlds of her material, she sustains the image of a plucky, can-do gal and good sport who swings at a steady jogging pace...

At the opening show her voice suggested an unlikely fusion of Nanette Fabray and Anita O'Day: Ms. Fabray for the upbeat talky quality of her enunciation and sometimes fluttery vibrato and intonation, and Ms. O'Day for the bedrock swing propelling her scat improvisations. That rhythmic security is Ms. Partridge's strongest asset.

NEW YORK TIMES

Stephen Holden

On Partridge's latest album, "You Are There: Songs From My Father," the arrangements are warm and well paced; her delivery is crisp and lean yet never runs cold. Her takes on songs such as "Stormy Monday Blues" and "Stars Fell on Alabama" are neither rehashes nor deconstructions, a vital balance if the songs are to retain both freshness and identity.

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Siddhartha Mitter

This album pays tribute to the memory of her beloved father... in a swinging journey through some of the classic songs of the last century that her father loved plus some songs that he would have loved to hear Sarah sing. His daughter even wrote one song especially for him. With effervescent arrangements featuring spontaneous improvisations and interplay between Partridge and her bandmates, *You are There* is a feel-good foray into the joys of small-group swing and classic jazz songs.

ALLABOUTJAZZ.COM

South Orange based Sarah Partridge is a jazz singer who has an open, clear voice, a solid rhythmic sense and a feeling for the best material. The 14 tune program is filled with evergreens done in a personal manner.

For instance, "Almost Like Being In Love, usually a swinger, has a surprising floating quality, which Partridge handles deftly. "How Long Has This Been Going On?" is refreshingly done as a bossa, and Partridge fills "Haunted Heart" with emotion.

THE STAR LEDGER

Zan Stewart

Sarah returns after too long an absence on records with 14 standards guaranteed to satisfy. Lerner and Lowe's "Almost Like Being In Love" is crooned as a slow winding dirge. It's as if the song is heard for the very first time and it becomes even more of a classic. Here is one enormously gifted songbird who can really deliver on every kind of song. Oh how I await the master-singer's next CD. May I not have to wait so long!

SINGER'S SINGERS

Dan Singer

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These are great songs, and Sarah Partridge owns a great voice. Her enthusiasm for the material brings new life to some old classics. They don't write them like this anymore and very few can sing them like Sarah does. Enjoy!"

GOOD MORNING AMERICA

Tony Perkins

Partridge... is in many ways... still is a young singer, doing it professionally only for a decade or so. But she has leaped in that short time to the front of girl jazz singers. Partridge takes every lyric and caresses it, understanding that songs like this must be a perfect blend of music and lyrics. All in all, a nearly perfect package, a CD that can be listened to again and again.

THE BIRMINGHAM (AL) NEWS

Garland Reeves

...when somebody like Sarah Partridge comes along, I go to my typewriter. Do you think a word processor could catch the magic of a new girl in town?

NY DAILY NEWS

Sidney Zion

...can it be that we are experiencing a golden age of jazz-influenced women singers? Well, Sarah Partridge's debut CD adds some fuel to that argument.

LA JAZZ SCENE

Roger Crane

Tall, chic SARAH PARTRIDGE has it all--a striking voice, insight into how to interpret lyrics and a vibrant personality that communicates a sense of fun, wit and style.

NY CALLING CABARET

William Wolf

Sarah Partridge is a singer with an initial album titled "I'll Be Easy to Find". One listen to this disc and you will be hoping that she is easy to find.

NEW JERSEY JAZZ SOCIETY

Joe Lang

She is an expressive singer who can belt if necessary and can scat with the best singers, but most of the time has a delicate approach to her material gliding elegantly through a song.

CABARET HOTLINE ONLINE

WDVR, PHILADELPHIA

Richard Edgcomb
