

IRENE JALENTI

irenejalenti@gmail.com

www.irenejalenti.com

Born into a family of illustrious Italian musicians, Irene Jalenti has followed a singular creative path as a jazz vocalist, songwriter and arranger drawing on an international array of kindred musical currents. Possessing a strikingly rich cello-like tone, she's equally impressive improvising a scat solo or interpreting a song with soulful intensity (across five languages). While her sound is often compared to international legends like Nina Simone, Mercedes Sosa, and Beth Carvalho, her phrasing, repertoire and poetic sensibility are all her own. A creative force on Baltimore's jazz scene since 2010, Jalenti turned the pandemic-induced hiatus into artist retreat, composing and arranging a gorgeous set of material for her 2021 debut album *Dawn* featuring guest stars Sean Jones (trumpet and flugelhorn) and Warren Wolf (vibraphone).

Education

Master of Music, Jazz Studies, Howard University, Washington, DC 20217

Bachelor of Music, Jazz Performance, Peabody Institute of the JHU, Baltimore, MD 2014

Jazz Clinics Berklee College of Music in Perugia, Umbria, Italy 2006

Selected Performances, Tours & Ensembles

Keystone Korner, Baltimore, MD 2021

Blues Alley, Washington, DC 2021

Creative Cauldron, Arlington, VA 2021

Havre de Grace Jazz & Blues Festival, MD 2021

Beijing, China Tour, 2019

Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival, Washington, DC 2019

DC Jazz Festival, Washington, DC 2019

Baltimore Jazz Collective, 2019

Alex Webb Trio, London 2019

Peace Ball with Esperanza Spalding, Smithsonian NAAMH, Washington, DC 2017

National Christmas Tree Lightning, White House, Washington, DC 2016

Ella 100, Live at the Apollo Theater, New York, 2016

Yerba Buena Gardens, San Francisco, CA 2010

Discography

Dawn, Irene Jalenti, AntidoteSounds, 2021

Ella 100: Live at the Apollo!, Concord Jazz Records, 2020

We Shall Overcome, Afro Blue, 2020

That is Love, Afro Blue, 2017

Blues for Tahir, Todd Marcus Jazz Orchestra, Hypnotic Records, 2015

The Serenade & the Sermon, Marcell Russell, 2013

Buddha-Bar III, George V Records, 2008

Back to the Beatles, Lorenzo Fontana 5et, 2005

0104, Cellar 55, Undiscovered Records, 2004

Voices, Ostinato, 2004

Press Quotes

JazzTimes Magazine - December 2021

by Thomas Conrad

Today, even though the worldwide jazz art form is vibrant, too many musicians record before they have something significant to say. Irene Jalenti is not one of them.

[...]

Dawn announces the arrival of a distinctive, fully formed singer. Jalenti has a deep, complex, compelling voice and the emotional authenticity that only comes with life experience. [...]

Now that Irene Jalenti has started making records, let's hope she won't stop.

Midwest Records • November 2021

by Guido Crosetti

One of the good things to come out of the pandemic is it gave this Italian born, DC denizen the gumption to grab the reins and make her long overdue solo debut. [...]

Jalenti shows her familial musical roots can be passed down through the generations.

Awards

Baltimore Loves Talent, ABC WMAR-2, 2020