



Lisa Kirchner



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Lisa Kirchner - Biography

Lisa Kirchner is a singer of remarkable versatility, a singer, songwriter and actress who performs an eclectic, multi-lingual repertoire that includes jazz standards from **The Great American Songbook**, French and Brazilian classics, folk, theatre and contemporary American and European art songs . "My father, a contemporary classical composer, conductor and pianist, took me to see Ray Charles, played and analyzed Duke Ellington songs with me, and pointed out the brilliance of a young guitarist named Jimi Hendrix, as we discussed Mozart, Bach and Schoenberg. My mother was a coloratura soprano who had performed classical lieder and show tunes in New York supper clubs". Lisa's musical journey has led her from classical piano, operetta and folk songs to cabaret and musical theatre on and off Broadway to a brand of ambient jazz as eclectic as her musical influences.

Lisa Kirchner has appeared at venues including **Foxwoods Resort Casino** in Connecticut, **Ryles Jazz Club** in Cambridge, Massachusetts, **Iridium**, **Birdland**, and **The Village Gate** in New York City as well as many other clubs on the jazz and cabaret circuit. The invited singer to **Gracie Mansion**, she has performed at the **White House**, at **Harvard University** and the **Harvard Club**. Lisa's entree into the jazz venue is preceded by her years of experience in theatre and television. She wrote her own songs for her on camera appearances on NBC's **Another World**. Her varied performance background has included Broadway appearances in lead and featured roles in the **New York Shakespeare Festival** productions of **The Threepenny Opera**, and Galt MacDermot's **The Human Comedy**. Off-Broadway, Kirchner originated the role of Irma Vep in Richard Foreman and Stanley Silverman's **Hotel For Criminals** and it's sequel, **The American Imagination**. She has been featured in numerous off and off-off Broadway productions at the **Public Theatre**, the **Delacorte Theatre**, **La Mama Theatre** and annex, **Westbeth** and **The American Place Theatre**. On television she appeared as Undine Spragg in the BRAVO Cable channel's **Songs from the Heart**, and as a ballad singer in **Out of Our Father's House**, on WNET's **Great Performances**. As a dancer she appeared in Grover Dale's **Houdini**, and with the **James Waring Dance Company** she appeared at **Judson Memorial Church**. Lisa Kirchner was Judy Collins' featured soloist at Carnegie Hall and sang harmony vocals with Collins. Lisa Kirchner's solo vocal albums, *One More Rhyme* (2000), *When Lights Are Low* (2002), *In the Shadow of a Crow* (2009) and *Something to Sing About* (2011) on Albany Records have garnered critical and professional praise (delete period) noting her intuitive musicality, eloquent phrasing, and a unique and beautiful sound. Lisa has consistently sought out the creative and improvisational gift of outstanding performers with whom she collaborates to interpret her eclectic repertoire.

Lisa Kirchner has additionally produced four albums on Albany Records, featuring the music of her father, renowned composer, Leon Kirchner: **Leon Kirchner Piano Works** (2006), **Leon Kirchner Complete String Quartets/The Orion String Quartet** (2008) , **Concert: Leon Kirchner Chamber Works**, (2009) and **Leon Kirchner Orchestral Works** (2011)

Lisa Kirchner – Reviews

Scan the covers of Lisa Kirchner's six albums to date and the first thing you'll note is that her flame-colored hair grows increasingly untamed. So, too, has her musicality grown steadily bolder and wilder. Serving up her first platter of all-original material, the dusky-voiced Kirchner reaches a new apex, pairing poetry as densely atmospheric as Mitchell's or Waits' with melodies that reflect her longstanding cosmopolitan flair, and melding influences as varied as Brel, Brecht, Weill, Gershwin, Becker and Fagen. Kirchner opens with "Salty and Blue (I Don't Believe in Romance)," a sassy dismissal of moon-June songwriting tropes that sets the stage for the wide-ranging imaginativeness to follow. The dark, stormy percolation of "A Billion Stars Ago (In the Shadow of a Crow)" makes way for the *chanson* delicacy of "What About You?," as misty-eyed paean to Paris which sighs and steps aside for the globetrotting "The Hudson Bay Inn," a jaunty jumble of images worthy of Lorraine Feather. The spirited title track sketches Kirchner's quest for an equally madcap paramour, while the twirling "Tim" recalls a vividly mottled past relationship. Her border-blurring travels continue through "Under the Paris Moon," while the closing "Quarters and Dimes" provides a sprightly summation of her narrative panache. All in all, *Umbrellas* is an exhilarating crazy quilt.

Jeff Tamarkin/Jazz Times

Every song in Lisa Kirchner's album, *Umbrellas in Mint*, is worth your attention and time. Ms. Kirchner not only has a beautiful voice, but she is a master poet with a musical gift. I thank her for including in her liner notes all the words to all the songs, and I recommend that you listen and follow along as I did.

- Carl Reiner

Lisa Kirchner is her great father's daughter in talent and originality. She never takes the expected or easy way, and her songs reflect the joys and agonies of her life's experiences. Listen, and you will be won over. You may even hear a hint of Leon-- a truly haunting shadow of his smile!

- Paul Chihara

Umbrellas in Mint, Lisa Kirchner's new CD, is the most exciting album Ms. Kirchner has yet to produce. She is in beautiful voice, the shimmering, delicious lines of her vocals are here in abundance, giving the listener shivers of pure pleasure; and the songs! Her writing continues to flourish, as a garden of lyric beauty. What a singer! and what a CD! I am impressed, as I always have been, by Lisa Kirchner's talent and her continuing success as a singer, writer and performer

- Judy Collins

Lisa Kirchner's songs in Umbrellas In Mint are pure poetry...There are singer-songwriters aplenty, good ones and some not so good. Lisa Kirchner isn't good. Lisa Kirchner is great. The woman is a poet. Her lyrics demand attention, and the fact that she sets them in a variety of elegant melodies puts her in the same class with the best of the singer/poets. And besides that, she can sing. Her voice has the kind of classic purity that does full justice to her remarkable lyrics...This is a unique voice...

- Jack Goodstein/BCMusic Premium

...Every song here was in fact written by the wild-maned Kirchner and, for me, brings back tangs of the underlauded Robert Kraft, among others, as the Carmichaelish What About You? (LOVE that "A ceiling at midnight, where stars shine on cue" line!) demonstrates. A wide palette of world influences invade the entire cycle here, subordinated beautifully to the dominantly Broadway ambiance...Expect generous doses of Rogers & Hart, Brel, Hammerstein, and a bunch of others in the Songbook milieu, but there are also a number of surprisingly Brechtian tinges, as Kirchner's unafraid of the shadows populating boulevards and hearts. She knows those darksome dimensions are just wellsprings... Umbrellas is an exhilarating escapade, a collection of songs wrought for a stage musical yet to be put beneath the lights...

- Mark S. Tucker/Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange

Drawing from jazz, Broadway, cabaret and Great American Songbook influences, Kirchner presents a dozen outstanding originals. They're rich in diversity, imagery and emotion. "Under The Paris Moon" and "Southern Starlight" are especially enchanting. "A Billion Stars Ago (In The Shadow of a Crow)" is intricately designed and intriguingly performed. Kirchner's elegantly expressive voice caresses her well-crafted lyrics and delicately woven melodies.

- Paul Freeman/PopCultureClassics.Com

If it can be said that anyone has music in her D.N.A., that person would be Lisa Kirchner... An album of all original material, Umbrellas in Mint is full of story-songs that might be taken from a progressive Broadway show, the melodies strong and the lyrics full of emotion. Ms. Kirchner sings in a way that draws the listener in, making us hang on her phrasing to see where the story - or the musical composition - will go next. While so many jazz singers are content to recycle the Great American Song Book, she is staking out new ground.

-Jeffrey Siegel/Straight No Chaser

In this her sixth album, jazz stylist Lisa Kirchner pushes the boundaries of her inestimable talents as a singer and arranger... She has written both the music and the lyrics for this highly imaginative exploration into poetry and stage plays and invites us on a journey called UMBRELLAS IN MINT - a story like no other and one that likely other singers will add to their repertoire... that is how strong this music is....Kirchner is such a brilliant stylist that she is able to take us on a surreal flight of fancy about love and life in Manhattan....This is excellent music

-Grady Harp/Amazon.com

Kirchner's latest finds her really comfortable in her own skin and really hitting it out of the park...Killer stuff.

- Chris Spector/Editor Publisher

...can't be surpassed by most in the jazz arena today!

-Rotcod Zzaj - Improv jazzation Nation

Style, elegance, impeccable musicality, chanteuse extraordinaire - they all apply to the amazing Lisa Kirchner. For this listener this is her strongest album to date - more variation, more variety of accompaniment, more pizzazz, more tenderness. Take an hour out the day to be transformed by this musical stylist!...Not only does Lisa Kirchner have a voice of great beauty and a sense of poetry in the way she delivers lyrics, but she also happens to be a rather fine composer ...Probably a bit of her artistry in performing and composing is in her genetic nature; her father was the late brilliant classical composer Leon Kirchner. This combination of musical styles and sung in English, French and Portuguese is as exciting as any new recording by a female vocalist to be release this year. Lisa Kirchner is on top of her form and this Album simply has it all.

Grady Harp/Amazon.com

great chops, spot on phrasing and a nice somewhat eclectic set list here make Charleston For You an incredibly entertaining tour de force...Kirchner has the talent and ability to work folk, jazz, and even French and Brazilian songs. An elegant vocal talent that could as a former co-worker from American Idol would say about certain talent - "She could sing the phone book."...The bottom line for Kirchner is simply this...she entertains! ... An absolutely delightful release and arguably her finest release to date.

<http://www.criticaljazz.com/2012/06/lisa-kirchner-charleston-for-you.html>

The rising queen of nu cabaret makes yet another bag breaking set that is clearly cutting edge eclectic in it's approach and delivery. ...Kirchner grabs the urbane ear and doesn't let go... she knows her way around a song... Vocal fans will know what's going on here right away.

- Chris Spector/Midwest Record

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Lisa Kirchner is an extraordinarily versatile singer, and this new release embraces a wide range of musical styles, from show songs to folk songs and pop songs by great American composers...Few singers can produce such convincing performances across a wide range of musical genres.

- John Watson/Jazz Camera

Lisa Kirchner has talent to burn! Her vocal technique is impeccable, showing some fine training not only in the production of the vocal sounds but also in the repertoire of songs from many sources...This is a superb album by a gifted lady of song and provides a bridge for those who thought classical music and popular music were two sides on a flowing river!

- Grady Harp/amazon.com

In a world where mediocracy seems to be commonplace, Lisa offers a breath of fresh air ...beautifully uncommon melodies sung with just the right experience and emotion. Add to this some of today's most accomplished musicians and "Something to Sing About" is just that

- Joe Zupan/ WICN, New England's Jazz & Folk station Worcester, MA

Lisa Kirchner is one of those rare artists for whom a song's meaning is as important as its melody. ...personal, thought-provoking, original songs on her latest release slow the heartbeat and raise the mental senses with great musicianship and a wonderful band backing her up, Lisa delivers vocal artistry at the highest level on this collection and I would recommend it in a heartbeat to any jazz fan.

- Eric Cohen/WAER 88.3 New York

...beautiful - and unique - takes on the songs of the extraordinary composers her father knew (including, for that matter, himself!), which add delicious (and nutritious) flavor to our classical playlists..

- Barney Sherman, Senior Music Producer and Afternoon Host, Iowa Public Radio Classical, author of Inside Early Music

... taking vocal material by many 20th Century composers and placing them in the realm of jazz. Kirchner, the daughter of Leon Kirchner, selected material by many musicians who had a connection to her father, and this personal relationship is evident in the tracks. Her musicianship is spot on throughout as she navigates some very tricky melodic lines and sells them convincingly as natural jazz tunes.... This is the best that cross-over projects can offer: finding a new vehicle for an old idea that seems almost more natural than the original.

- Doug Laustsen/WRSU

Tragedy, broken hearts, mortality and violence lie beneath the surface of Lisa Kirchner's scintillating album, *Something to Sing About*, like bloodstained rocks. As her vocals spin and gyrate through a cycle of songs that draws on the work of the finest American composers, she covers the range of human experience from girlish hopefulness to world-weary heaviness, exposing these underlying dangers in startling moments of dissonance, shifts in meter and rhythm, and unsettling musical intervals. And all with a lightness of touch that belies the essential darkness of much of the material...At the album's heart lies Kirchner's intense knowledge of her material, combined with an ability to render it accessible. Rewarding and fascinating stuff.

Piers Ford/Art of A Torch Singer

...you really have to hear the songs to get a handle on the album's uniqueness... In these performances, the songs sound not like crossover -- classical music dressed up as jazz -- but like they were written as jazzy pop tunes, even though, paradoxically the tunes are presented essentially unaltered, just as the composers wrote them. ... these performances sound like persuasive, frequently beguiling, renditions of jazz standards. Kirchner's dusky voice is seductive and wears well, and she sings with easy spontaneity and intuitive musicality

- Stephen Eddins/Allmusic

This is crossover in the best sense, the kind of thing Kurt Weill championed when he came to America (Kirchner has performed Weill, and it shows). These arrangements swing, but they are chosen so cannily that they come off winningly. If Ives knew his 'In Autumn' would "cross over" into jazz, I believe he would be delighted; and many of the others (John Corigliano, Ned Rorem) actively participated in this project...This is a refreshing and enjoyable release.

- SULLIVAN/American Record Guide

If it's "smooth vocal" work you're yearning for, Lisa's CD will give you 18 totally satisfying instances. Everything you would expect (& more) from her renditions of classics in *The Great American Songbook*...

- Rotcod Zzaj/ZZaj Productions

...a beautiful realization and clearly the one that corresponds most closely to a personality so richly musical, but also so accomplished in terms of style...Lisa Kirchner adapts herself to the entire repertoire, and because she gives a lot of room to the musicians, each brings his own voice creating coherence, heard in the beautiful « *Crazy Love, Crazy Heart* », the only Lisa Kirchner original. It is an exceptional accomplishment in musical arrangement to arrive at such a unity of tone, with marvelous success

- Yves Sportis/Jazz Hot © Jazz Hot n°663, Spring 2013

"In the Shadow of a Crow" featuring vocalist Lisa Kirchner and her marvelous musicians is a collection of standards and original songs that I can highly recommend. It's a musical revelation to hear what Lisa does with her voice. A sound imbued with sophistication, beauty, and style so rare to hear from any singer these days. I look forward to the next effort from this multitalented lady who has brought her wonderful artistry to theatre, Broadway, radio, and television.

- Ron Della Chiesa WGBH Radio Boston/ WPLM Radio Plymouth

Three French titles and excellently interpreted by Lisa Kirchner...the delicate attention of a connoisseuse, who has chosen the crème de la crème of musicians... this singer has a lot of talent

- Michel Bedin/Jazz Hot

... an adventurer's idea of repertoire...She's convincingly resilient... equally buoyant

- Michael Ullman/Fanfare

... if you want to hear a singer of considerable note, then lend an ear to Lisa Kirchner. Ms. Kirchner knows her business and takes care of it with confidence and sensitivity ...Lisa Kirchner deserves attention - no more time should be spent in the shadow of a crow....she flies on her own. Elliot Meadow.Radio Station

- Jazz Moods Plus. (Live 365.Com)

Backed up by a deft and swingingly inventive trio (adding a featured accordion) Lisa Kirchner sings with an affecting blend of elegance and vulnerability. In a fine album that casts a nostalgic, intoxicating spell over the listener, like a wine saved for a special occasion, she offers a lesson in the understated craft of cosmopolitan cabaret and jazz singing. Singing both French and American songs, Kirchner presents the notes and words in astutely judged readings that are both dignified and infinitely wistful. The program is expertly planned and varied. Those of her own songs included here are original, sometimes almost surreal in construction, and reflect her long love affair with European and American popular song. This is a wonderful album.

- Allen Shawn/Somposer/Auther/Pianist

Lisa Kirchner is a singer/songwriter of refinement and beauty. Her original songs derive from a life of music and experience; one senses the depth of her work while being struck by its lightness. Lisa's treatment of the classic songs of yesterday gives these songs new life while her performing style transports her fellow musicians and the listener to a keener understanding of their lyrics and harmonic subtleties.

- Fred Sherry/ Cellist/ Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society

Lisa is a wonderful artist and vocalist with a great passion for composing, and performing. She is a talent that touches her audience with her love and dedication to music.

- Ron Jackson/Guitarist/Composer

Absolutely unique...a vocal style that spans the Atlantic Ocean to embrace two continents

- Carl Reiner/Producer/Actor/Comedien

Lisa is a natural born composer with a sensual voice and a stirring, tactile delivery

- Frank Lacy/Trombonist/Composer

Looking at the cover of *When Lights Are Low* (Albany) and admiring Lisa Kirchner's all-American elegance, you expect to hear lady-like delicacies done up with vanilla frosting. Instead, out pours this astonishing mix of ash and gravel that combines the talk-sing sophistication of Mabel Mercer with the gutsy appeal of Dee Dee Bridgewater. Kirchner's rusty world-weariness borrows liberally from Billie Holiday, especially on her dusky "You Don't Know What Love Is" and gently bruised "Angel Eyes." Her "Manha de Carnival," at once mistily reflective and coolly satiated, is sumptuously good. So, too, is a skillfully tempered, "I Concentrate on You" that simmers with unfulfilled desire. The biggest surprise though, is a vibrant reading of Livingston and Evans' somewhat obscure "The Ruby and the Pearl", imbued with that unique sort of cabaret theatricality that defined Mercer's incomparability.

- Christopher Loudon- JazzTimes

Contrary to many of her female colleagues who have been pushed by avid promoters, LISA Kirchner having played some noted United States venues, sings in tune, something not so frequent as one might believe. Subscribing to the tradition of the great vocalists or... luminaries, LISA Kirchner is markedly influenced by the last of these, Billie Holiday, as well by the timbre of her voice as by the repertoire...bringing a touch of the exotic which is completely surprising, never invasive, and expressive of a nostalgia most definitively heard in the treatment she gives to "All The Pretty Little Horses" ... this album, composed exclusively of standards, is listened to with much pleasure.

- Jacques Talb- Jazz Hot/Paris

When Lights Are Low is second CD of the singer LISA Kirchner, which follows *One More Rhythm* of which we had celebrated the praises in these same columns. Accompanied by her quartet piano-bass-drums-guitar, LISA Kirchner gives us other everlasting standards on which she can improvise at leisure, just like her musicians... ..With this CD, LISA Kirchner gives us a beautiful example of her talent and her sensitivity.

-Michel Bedin- JazzHot/Paris

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There isn't a more articulate interpreter of standards singing today. Lisa Kirchner again delivers another quality project, chock full of timeless, enduring classics and uncovered gems....and in the process, assuring her place as the millennium's first true renaissance woman.

- **Joe Zupan WICN FM 90.5 Massachusetts**

When Lights Are Low is a marvelous journey through the Great American Songbook by one of today's most talented and gifted singers. I know my many listeners will be delighted to hear these classic standards performed with such taste and refinement. Lisa's interpretations are further enhanced by a marvelous quartet

- **Ron Della Chiesa, WGBH, MA**

Lisa Kirchner's new album is gorgeous, rhythmic, classy.

- **Barry Gaston KMUW Radio Kansas**

While the art of singing is built on the greatness of the past, it is refreshing and exciting to hear a new artist like Lisa Kirchner. She joins a select group with this CD.

- **Bernard Brightman/Stash Records**

This wonderful effort reflects Lisa Kirchner's talent, taste and heartfelt love for the music. Its truly a pleasurable listening experience!

- **Masani- Georgia Public Radio, GA**

From the strength of Ethel Merman to the quiet passion of Sarah Vaughan, Lisa does it all. In several languages to boot. Latin rhythms, swingers, broken hearted passion - all come so naturally to this multi-talented young lady who puts her heart in everything she does.

- **Tom Phillips, THE SOUNDS OF JAZZ & JAZZ NEWS MAGAZINE**

a bright, upbeat and beautiful sound.

- **Linda Yohn WEMU**

Lisa Kirchner's latest collection fits all seasons of the heart. During the very first listening one moves easily to the soul-light flowing in. And you keep going back again and again- finding yourself pleasantly pinned inside a wall of exquisite and beguiling sounds. For sometime now her imagination has been looking for secrets. Now, with a soul that has been working overtime, she has found them. And another star is born.

- **Gordon Parks**

..subtle renditions... novel interpretation... vocal magic... The singer's view of "All or Nothing at All", includes a slight Latin beat and matches performances of this song by such geniuses of the vocal arts as Sarah Vaughan, Chris Connor and June Christy. But it's the sensitivity to music and lyrics and the way she works with her sidemen that brings her version to the level of these other singers... strong evidence of formidable musical genes....

- Dave Nathan- All Music Guide, All About Jazz

Here a singer, who has presence, a remarkable voice, who chooses her songs well, who selects good musicians.... She can emphasize a song and give it content and an undeniable jazz form...

- Michel Bedin- JazzHot/Paris

..magnetic vocal style... captivating...

- Alan Bargabuhr- Cadence Magazine

Lisa finds that subterranean tone in her voice and in the song that raises pop singing to an art.

- Galt MacDermot

Lilting, lyrical and lush, the voice of Lisa Kirchner thrills, soothes and delights. Her new album, One More Rhyme, of unusual and beautiful songs, is a definite winner.

- Judy Collins

Like all true singers of song, Lisa takes her vocal expertise for granted and concentrates entirely upon the text. Every nuance of the words- each twist and turn and lilt and sob and smile- contains, and expresses, the experience of She Who Was There. She performs from the inside out. Prima la parola... Whatever the language- English, Spanish, Portuguese, French (or, rather, Parisian), Provencal- the shading seems inevitable, and the diction flawless. Lisa has manners but no mannerisms: she sings less about having been in love than because she was in love. Her repertory is unhackneyed and tasteful and mostly very poignant. I am a fan because there is nobody like her in our loud crass vulgar milieu of music, and because she knows what she's doing and how to do it.

- Ned Rorem

Lisa Kirchner's sultry way with a song is very winning... A wonderful album.

- Ruth Laredo

It is beautiful to hear Lisa Kirchner's singing which is so very musical, genuine and touching... a lovely album.

- **Peter Serkin**

Lisa Kirchner is that rare phenomenon of the consummate performer whose artistry is world-class. Unforgettable is her unique sound and the manner of her musical presentation. Like a magnet, she draws the listener into the complete compass of what it means to be a human being from our most earthy elements to the sublime. Her voice says it all as she uses her extraordinary gifts in the service of the music she is singing. Listening to Lisa Kirchner is an experience not to be missed.

- **Luise Vosgerchian, Harvard University**

the French songs defy explanation when it comes to intensity and emotion... Her renditions of 'Ne Me Quitte Pas' and 'Jessie' may be the most heart-wrenching ever

- **Electronic Link Journey**

this smoky torcher with the mane of red hair is absorbing... an intense singer

- **Backstage**

a formidable interpreter

- **Amsterdam News**

she's got striking range with the ability to emote rage, loss or longing in equally convincing measure... Her covers of 'Dansa da Solidao' and 'Padam, Padam' were especially vibrant with Kirchner using her arms, torso and face eloquently to embody the passion in the music... Kirchner is a singer who can galvanize the stage both vocally and physically..

- **Koroly's Cabaret Corner**

a sexy chanteuse... very much her own woman

- **Variety**