



Women With Standards

Take four women with big songs, even bigger voices, and some serious fun poked at the plight of the modern woman and you have....

Women With Standards.

These singers set the standard – with internationally acclaimed voices that have taken them individually from London’s West End to Tokyo, Berlin and the USA.

Together they raise the standards – with the greatest and most cherished songs of the 20th Century. From the classics of Gershwin and Porter to Sondheim and even Sting, *Women With Standards* serve up a fresh, contemporary take on the songs that have moved millions of people around the world.

With plenty of heart, a stack of soul, a modicum of cheek, and other less printable body parts, Singers Naomi Evers, Libby O’Donovan, Melissa McCaig and Lee McAllistair explore exactly what it means to be *Women With Standards* in the new millennium.

“High standards indeed.” – The Advertiser

“The quality of each performance was uniformly high, but each vocalist maintained an individual approach.” – The Advertiser

“Standards were raised in both senses: classic songs, or standards, from the 20th Century presented with a high standard of interpretation.” – The Advertiser

Women With Standards

biographies

Women With Standards premiered in July 2003 with a sell-out show at the Governor Hindmarsh.

The show has since evolved to incorporate contemporary popular as well as jazz classics in jaw-dropping four part vocal harmony with intelligent and original musical arrangements and a world standard line up.

Women With Standards are:

Naomi Evers

Born in Adelaide South Australia, Naomi's singing career has spanned nearly two decades and the four corners of the globe. She has performed in some of the world's best venues and alongside some of the biggest names in music.

Her early television appearances included such shows as Hey, Hey, It's Saturday, The Midday Show, The Mike Walsh Show, Johnno and Danno Show.

In 1986, she conceived and created one of Australia's most successful musical acts, The Fabulous Singlettes. With the Singlettes, Naomi toured Australia and gave numerous TV performances before going to the Edinburgh Festival, where they were named 'Pick of the Fringe' by the BBC, and nominated for an Olivier Award in 1988. The Singlettes quickly became a familiar feature on the London landscape, playing for three years in various West End theatres, the Royal Albert Hall, The Palladium, Wembley Arena, appearing with Tom Jones, Dionne Warwick, Shirley Bassey, and at the Royal Variety Show. They were also familiar faces on British TV, including Live at the Palladium and their own specials on BBC and Channel 4. They released their live album 'Stop in the Name of Love' in 1989.

In 1991, Naomi left the Singlettes to resume her solo career, beginning with her solo show 'Naomi Evers Lets Her Hair Down' in the West End. She formed her own band with some of London's finest musicians--Tony O'Malley (10cc, Kokomo) Neil Hubbard (Joe Cocker's Original Grease Band, Brian Ferry), Andy Newmark (Sly and the Family Stone, Eric Clapton) to name a few. Through the 1990's, she was regularly featured at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club (appearing with artists such as Arturo Sandoval, Delfeayo Marsalis, Andy Sheppard) the 606 Club and other London Jazz venues and on the continent.

Though now settled back in Adelaide Hills with her husband and daughter,

Naomi continues to tour Europe with the Fabulous Singlettes as well as solo performances in London. Her solo cabaret show was a sellout at The 2002 Adelaide Cabaret Festival and she continues to perform in concert with her R&B/soul band.

"As she moved through the crowd singing...4 men in my row fainted." - The Age, Melbourne

"An exceptional vocal talent." - The Daily Telegraph, Sydney

"A soul singer of exceptional quality" -The Guardian, London

Libby O'Donovan

Powerful, vibrant and capable of incredible range, Libby O'Donovan's voice has excited audiences both nationally and internationally. Libby's achievements include touring the United States as a soloist with the Adelaide Connection, annual performances in Tokyo, performing at the International Association of Jazz Educators convention in New York City, being one of ten finalists at the prestigious Wangaratta Jazz Festival and also performing at the international Sydney Spring Festival in the Sydney Opera House.

Libby has worked extensively with Doppio Parallelo, including starring as the vocalist in "DJ Squat", "Contamination's Lab", and the dramatic new work opera, "The Last Child" which was performed at the Sydney Opera House. Libby's compositional achievements include writing a score for an SBS documentary, composing new music premiered at the Telstra Adelaide Festival, and writing for her own funk band, 'The Groove Glove'.

More recently Libby stunned audiences with her cabaret performance in "Flat on Your Bacharach" which has received national and international acclaim, recently returning from a tour to Canada. The show enjoyed a sell-out season in the 2002 Adelaide Cabaret Festival, also receiving rave reviews for performances at the Sydney Gay Games in March 2002 and Feast festival in 2001.

In addition to her captivating personality and humour, Libby's strengths lie with her ability to harmonize, synchronize and tantalize with her musical mastery.
"O'Donovan has the biggest eyes, and even bigger vocal chords, so you believe her when she coos she wants to be Close To You" – The Advertiser
"O'Donovan excels in a cabaret style, laced with humour.." – The Advertiser
"...(she) belted out a powerhouse version of Work Song." – The Advertiser

Melissa McCaig

Hailed by the Sydney Morning Herald as a "powerful, sassy performer", Mel McCaig has performed nationally and internationally with high profile pop bands as well as singing regularly with her own jazz ensemble. Mel is a member of the dynamic A Cappella group "Sonic Fix" who perform annually at the prestigious

Park Hyatt Hotel in Tokyo, Japan. Mel has toured extensively throughout Australia and New Zealand with the acclaimed tribute show "BABBA".

More recently Mel collaborated with Libby O'Donovan and Matthew Carey to create the cabaret sensation "Flat on your Bacharach" which enjoyed sell out seasons at the Adelaide Festival Centre's Morning Melodies series, the Adelaide Cabaret Festival and the Sydney Cultural Festival. Flat on your Bacharach has recently returned from performances in Vancouver, Canada and will be embarking on a national tour in 2004.

Mel has performed with Vitalstatistix Theatre Company in Maude Davey's production of "Way Dead Cool" and was a guest vocalist in the Final Night Concert of the 2003 Adelaide Cabaret Festival with New York's Lauren Kennedy and Jason Robert Brown.

Mel has recently received a Bachelor of Music from the Elder Conservatorium and will be joining The Fabulous Singlettes for Melbourne's Midsumma Festival in January 2004. Mel's passion for singing can be seen in her dedication to the art and heard in her stunning voice. With the power of Dusty Springfield and the sensitivity of Ella Fitzgerald Mel never fails to wow audiences with the scope of her ability. Mel's awesome vocal range and versatility is matched only by her captivating on-stage presence and her energetic performance dynamic. "McCaig sets fire to torch ballads" – The Advertiser

Lee McAllistair

Acclaimed jazz singer Lee McAllistair has captivated audiences for more than a decade with her sultry vocal style, formidable musicianship and her serious sense of fun.

Born in Adelaide, McAllistair began her musical journey on the 'cello, later discovering the power of her vocal chords and moving through the genres of classical and popular music before settling on her signature style – jazz.

As key singer/songwriter for all-girl gospel act 32 Zion Street, McAllistair has delivered knockout support performances for such Australian icons as Renee Geyer and Ross Wilson (Daddy Cool, Mondo Rock).

As member of internationally reputed jazz choir The Adelaide Connection she has toured throughout Australia, and as a solo singer she has sung for major jazz festivals, sporting events, television and radio shows and as a session singer for commercials. She has recorded two albums to date: '32 Zion St – Live at the Full Bench' and 'Martini' with JC Jazz. In 2003 McAllistair was a featured singer in popular cabaret/swing act 'New York, New York' with an all-star big band.

A vocal lecturer in the jazz department at the Elder Conservatorium of Music (University of Adelaide) for two years, Lee has also conducted workshops, masterclasses and seminars for aspiring artists and secondary school students.

Lee is best known for her larger-than-life stage presence and even larger vocal range, her musical intelligence and her ability to deliver show-stopping performances that leave you on the floor trying to find your jaw...

“Tall, slinky blonde Lee McAllistair strolled on stage... then sang an expressive tribute to Sarah Vaughan.. with styling that echoed the original.” – The Advertiser
“A highlight came when McAllistair and O’Donovan sent up the somewhat sexist nature of the lyrics in ‘Someone to Watch over Me’...(it) got a big laugh” – The Advertiser

