

## Jazz vocalist Laura Karst releases her second album, “Dancing in Darkness” in June 2022

*“Laura Karst is a top-notch jazz singer who has a haunting voice and adventurous spirit... [She] digs into the lyrics... Some of these songs were originally composed as instrumentals but she makes the interval leaps with apparent ease... “Dancing in Darkness” has plenty of fine singing along with enough variety and surprising moments to hold one’s interest throughout.”* --- L.A. Jazz Scene, August 2022 issue (Scott Yanow)

*“The Bay Area singer with a velvet-smooth voice and a breezy delivery that feels comfortable dealing in jazz, swing, pop, Latin and more just released her second album, Dancing in Darkness.”*

-- Bay Area News Group, June 2022 (Randy McMullen – Director of Arts & Entertainment)

*“She’s a captivating vocalist... With her lovely voice and sensitive interpretations, Karst gives deep meaning to every line.”* --- San Jose Mercury News / Bay Area News Group (Paul Freeman)

*“...wondrous and exciting... [She] sings with a joyous abandon.... a storyteller that has the innate ability to create a musical connection between herself and the audience... this is how you sing jazz!”*

--- CriticalJazz.com (Brent Black) – review of Laura’s first album, “Little Did I Dream”

Laura Karst’s June 2022 album release, **Dancing in Darkness**, comprises songs by an international array of jazz composers and a variety of jazz styles: swing, bebop, ballads, Latin, modern, and fusion, occasionally treating listeners to Laura’s impeccably pronounced French and Portuguese singing.

### Personnel:

Laura Karst – vocals

Walter Bankovitch – piano & Rhodes electric piano

Noriyuki Ken Okada – acoustic and electric bass

Greg German – drums and percussion

Modesto Briseno – trumpet and flugelhorn

Producer and Musical Director - Roger Letson

Engineered and mixed by Gabriel Shepard,

25th Street Recording – Oakland, CA

Mastered by Gary Mankin – San Francisco, CA

### Track list:

#### **1. It's Your Dance (Israel) [5:04]**

John Carisi & Ray Passman (Beechwood Music Corp.)

#### **2. Errática [3:24]**

Caetano Veloso (Terra Enterprises, Inc.)

#### **3. Not You Again [5:35]**

Duncan Lamont (David Platz Music, Inc.)

#### **4. Bittersweet [3:50]**

John Bianculli & Connie Bryson (Hotsprings Music / Meter Maid Music)

#### **5. Winter Sweet [6:22]**

Kenny Wheeler & Norma Winstone (Metisse Music)

#### **6. Footprints [8:24]**

Wayne Shorter, Giazzonne Reyes & Theo Jackson (Miyako Music)

#### **7. Busy Being Blue [4:39]**

Peter Eldridge & Jack Donahue (Reuben’s Tunes / Two Maples Music)

#### **8. Beloved (Daahoud) [5:25]**

Clifford Brown & Meredith d’Ambrosio – vocalese written by Denise Donatelli (Second Floor Music)

#### **9. A Dream Come True [7:21]**

Tony Lakatos & Masha Bijlsma (Cronemeyer Editions / Laika Records Publishing)

#### **10. Dans mon île [4:47]**

Henri Salvador & Maurice Pon (Round Hill Works)

Flute: Laura Karst

#### **11. Quiet Afternoon [6:24]**

Zbigniew Namyslowski (Mmo Music Group / Vebeque Music)

## Laura Karst – Biography

Music critics and fans praise Laura Karst's warm and smooth alto voice, her interpretation of lyrics as a true storyteller, and her versatility as a singer of a wide range of jazz styles, and in a variety of languages. She can swing hard and scat, or get an infectious bossa nova or samba groove going, and she will hold you emotionally captive as she sings her ballads.

San Francisco Bay Area jazz vocalist Laura Karst used to surprise her audiences when they learned that, by day, she was the chair of a prominent college's French department, up until her retirement in 2017. She enjoyed her day job, but singing jazz has been her greatest love for the past 20 years. Laura is a seasoned solo performer, having headlined in a number of Bay Area jazz venues, including Angelica's Main Stage in Redwood City, Café Pink House jazz club in Saratoga, the Lobby Lounge of the San Jose Fairmont, Tarragon in Sunnyvale, Sumika in Los Altos, the Octavia Lounge jazz club in San Francisco, and the Tabard Theatre in San Jose. In 2017, Laura was the invited Guest Artist at the Hilo Bay Café in Hawai'i, and she has also performed in numerous jazz clubs in Paris, such as Autour de Midi et Minuit, Péniche le Marcouet, Le Caveau des Légendes, Le Café Universel, and La Crêperie ELO. As an ensemble singer, Laura has sung in the 5- and 6-voice vocal jazz groups, Vocal Flight and JAZZ-ology, winning First Place at the Reno Jazz Festival and multiple national awards from DownBeat Magazine during Laura's tenure with them. With JAZZ-ology, Laura has performed in jazz clubs in Manhattan, NY, and in Paris, Lyon, and Grenoble, France. She is a lyricist as well, collaborating primarily with the award-winning European jazz composer and vocalist, Loïs Le Van, whose album "Vind", featuring exclusively Laura's lyrics, was selected as Album of the Month by Jazz News Magazine in October 2019.



"Dancing in Darkness" release concert,  
June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Tabard Theatre, San José, California  
(photo: © Doug Peterson)

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