

## Mp3 Melissa Stylianou - Bachelorette\*



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From the intimacy of "Jitterbug Waltz" to a provocative performance of Bjork's "Bachelorette", this eclectic mix of jazz standards and contemporary material pulsates with raw energy while maintaining the balance between subtlety and sinew. 9 MP3 Songs JAZZ: Jazz Vocals Details: Melissa Stylianou appeared on the Toronto jazz scene eight years ago and quickly earned the esteem of the Canadian jazz community. In both 2002 and 2003, she was nominated Jazz Vocalist of the Year at the National Jazz Awards. She has headlined at major jazz festivals all over Ontario, at the Festival International de Jazz de Montreal, the Atlantic Jazz Festival in Halifax, Nova Scotia and The Brandon Jazz Festival in Manitoba. Melissa performs regularly at the country's best jazz clubs and has developed a loyal home-base audience, while her skills as a composer/lyricist have been receiving attention across Canada. In 2004, she was the recipient of a Toronto Arts Council Music Creators Grant and in 2005, Melissa was honoured to receive a Canada Council for the Arts Grant for Professional Musicians. With this grant, Melissa is currently living in New York studying composition, theory and vocal technique with Garry Dial, Theo Bleckmann and Tom Schilling. In the coming year, Melissa plans to increase national and international performance opportunities and share her work as a Canadian artist. Melissa graduated from the acting program at Ryerson Theatre School in Toronto and it was during those years that she discovered her love of jazz. In 1997, after private studies with the renowned vocalist Carol Welsman, Melissa became the leader of her first trio featuring Richard Whiteman on piano and Artie Roth on bass. In 2001, the Trio gave way to the Melissa Stylianou Sextet (2001 2004) with John MacLeod, Nancy Walker, Ted Warren, Kim Ratcliffe and Artie Roth. A new trio formed out of the Sextet (with Ratcliffe and Roth) and this group held the coveted Friday evening performance slot at The Rex Hotel in Toronto from 2000 2005. Melissas current group features Rob Piltch, Andrew Downing and Davide Drenzo. The Melissa Stylianou Quartet will travel

across Canada this summer to support Melissas third album, which features many original compositions and arrangements and is due for release in Canada in the spring of 2006 (Sleepin Bee Music, Festival Dist.). With funding from both the Ontario Arts Council and FACTOR, this new record introduces Melissa as a talented songwriter/lyricist as well as builds on her reputation as one of Canadas finest interpreters of the jazz repertoire. Melissas debut album, *it never entered my mind* (SBM), was released in 1999 and features Richard Whiteman on piano and Artie Roth on bass. In 2001, Melissa released her second album, *bachelorette\** (SBM), to rave reviews. Both albums are available nation-wide as well as online ([jazzpromo.cdbaby.com](http://jazzpromo.cdbaby.com)) and they continue to receive airplay both locally (JazzFM, CLKN, CIUT) and nationally (CBC). National recognition has created many new opportunities for Melissa. In 2002, her original compositions were recorded for broadcast by the CBCs JazzBeat Series and in 2004, CBC Radio invited Melissa to participate in their On Stage series at The Glenn Gould Studio. Later the same year she headlined a concert as part of The Art of Time Ensembles concert series, which led to another great opportunity - performing at Roy Thomson Hall as part of the opening act for k.d. lang. This Art of Time Ensemble project has continued to expand and in November 2005, Melissa was featured in their performance at the Harbourfront Centre Theatre, recorded for broadcast by CBC Radio. In May of 2006, this group will perform in Moscow. Touring nationally and internationally continues to be a part of Melissas artistic vision. In February 2005, Melissa performed six concerts in Quebec. She performed both jazz standards and original material, communicating with her audiences and the media entirely in French, proving herself to be a versatile and quintessentially Canadian artist. Melissa is also a dedicated educator, and will utilize these skills as she tours across Canada. She has been on faculty at the National Music Camp since 2002 and teaches privately in Toronto. She has taught at Mohawk College, Humber College and the University of Toronto, and led workshops at the 2005 Brandon Jazz Festival. As her career progresses, Melissa has begun to gain profile in the United States. She traveled to Chicago in 2004 to record and perform with American violinist Zach Brock at the renowned jazz club The Green Mill. In August 2005, She made her New York City debut with the same band at The Rockwood Music Hall. While living in New York, Melissa plans to secure management and record distribution in the States, thus increasing her performance opportunities and developing her profile as a Canadian musician.

\*\*\*\*\*ALBUM REVIEWS\*\*\*\*\* MELISSA STYLIANOU \* \* \* *bachelorette* Local jazz singer Melissa Stylianou, a regular at the Rex on Fridays, stretches beyond traditional jazz cliches on her

stylish second album, which features songs by Tom Waits, Bjork and Toronto's Cate Friesen as well as one original (the dreamy "The Lonely Want To Be"). Stylianou steers Bjork's haunting title track into Jobim territory with the help of guitarist/co-producer Kim Ratcliffe, and her light touch and confident avoidance of affected, attention-begging vocal stylings provide ample space for her talented band ( Ratcliffe, pianist Nancy Walker, basist Artie Roth, drummer Ted Warren and trumpet/flugelhorn player John MacLeod) to shine. MDI, Eye Magazine Dec. 6 2001 ##### Melissa Stylianou has a new CD, bachelorette\* on the SBM label, which showcases nine tunes and classy backing for the singer in Kim Ratcliffe, Nancy Walker, Artie Roth, John MacLeod and Ted Warren. Her sophomore disc, for which three tracks were recorded earlier this month, explored interesting material that lets her wind her voice round the lyrics to create marvellously moody music. She impresses with the rare words to Monk's "Ugly Beauty," then wallows in jazz-meets-art-song mode on Sting's "Tea In The Sahara," Bjork's title track and the melancholic "The Lonely Want To Be." Stylianou's breathy intimacy is just right for "Close Your Eyes" and elsewhere she does her distinctly jazzy take on ancients like "Little Boy Blue," "Jitterbug Waltz" and "A Sleepin' Bee." Geoff Chapman, Toronto Star November 29, 2001 \*\*\*\*\*MELISSA STYLIANOU REVIEWS\*\*\*\*\* "She's the sort of warm, open and secure singer for whom "style" is a means not an end...The keys here are clarity and respect, the same qualities that allow her to rev up Them There Eyes, a song irrevocably associated with Billie Holiday, and come off as quite fresh rather than simply irreverant. - Mark Miller, The Globe and Mail ##### "Melissa Stylianou is one of Toronto's more convincing jazz singers, boasting a relaxed extroversion and surprisingly subtle mood shifts." - Stuart Broomer, TorontoLife

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