

BIO

Diana Panton

vocal

Diana Panton has quietly become one of the brightest lights on the jazz scene today. Her work has been consistently praised by listeners and music critics alike for her ethereal vocals, exceptional song selection and emotional intensity. "Her diaphanous vocal sound never insists and her high speed vibrato is like the beat of a hummingbird's heart - natural, untainted and pure." (Lesley Mitchell-Clarke, *Wholenote Magazine*)

Her keen aesthetic sense has attracted the attention of some of the jazz world's most respected masters. When Order of Canada and legendary multi-instrumentalist Don Thompson first heard Panton sing at age 19, he recommended she audition for the reputed jazz workshop at the Banff Center for the Arts (Canada). There, she studied under Norma Winstone (and in subsequent visits, Jay Clayton and Sheila Jordan). "When the great singer Sheila Jordan said Diana Panton 'sounds like the sweetest bird you'll ever hear', she helped define some of the ephemeral delicacy that marks Panton as unique." (Stuart Broomer, *Toronto Life*)

Before recording her first album, Panton completed an Honours Masters degree in French literature and fulfilled a teaching engagement at the University of Paris (France), followed by a position as a French Sessional Lecturer at McMaster University (Canada). She then completed a teaching degree in French, Visual and Dramatic Arts which would eventually lead to her current position at Westdale Secondary (Canada).

When the time finally arrived to go into the studio, national award-winning guitarist Reg Schwager was invited to join Don Thompson for some stellar accompaniment behind Panton's pure vocals. The late great Montreal jazz critic Len Dobbin called "...yesterday perhaps" one of the finest debut CDs he had heard in years! It landed Diana on the covers of *VIEW and NOW Magazine* and the album made *NOW's* TOP 10 Discs of the Year. The album was also awarded a Silver Disc Award upon its release in Japan in 2011.

She has been named one of Canada's TOP 5 Jazz Vocalists by CBC radio host Tim Tamashiro. Her most recent album JUNO-winning album, "I Believe in Little Things" is for kids and the young at heart. The album charted #1 on iTunes and Amazon in the US and Canada. It debuted simultaneously at #8 on Billboard's Jazz Chart and #11 on Billboard's Kids Chart upon its release in the US. Along with winning a number of Children's awards, the album went to #1 on Amazon.com's "Movers and Shakers" Chart.

One gets the feeling this is just the tip of the iceberg for Panton... this artist is on the brink of something big.