

Jennifer madsen: full bio



Jennifer Madsen is an American jazz vocalist, recording artist, producer, and educator whose work stands at the intersection of tradition and reinvention. With a career spanning more than four decades, she has established herself as a sophisticated interpreter of the American Songbook, known for performances that blend musical precision with embodied storytelling. Her growing international audience reflects an artist whose voice, phrasing, and interpretive depth resonate far beyond stylistic boundaries.

At the core of Madsen's artistry is a commitment to jazz as a living, breathing art form. Her performances are shaped not only by musicality, but by a physical and emotional engagement with the material, informed by her long-standing study and certification in the Margolis Method. This integration of voice and movement allows her to inhabit each song fully, guiding audiences through a dynamic emotional landscape that is both intimate and expansive.

Madsen's recent recordings have further defined her as a distinctive voice in contemporary jazz. Her 2025 release *Reimagine* revisits classic repertoire with fresh harmonic language and collaborative interplay, featuring acclaimed artists including Sean Jones and Howard Levy. The project highlights her ability to balance reverence for tradition with a modern sensibility, supported by the elegant and inventive arrangements of her longtime collaborator, pianist and arranger Brent Edstrom.

Her forthcoming big band album *Girl Talk* expands that vision on a larger scale. Produced in collaboration with Sam Cardon, the recording showcases richly layered orchestration, dynamic ensemble interplay, and a bold reimagining of classic material. Featuring guest artists such as Jeff Coffin, Sean Jones, and Ryan Keberle, *Girl Talk* positions Madsen not only as a vocalist, but as a creative force shaping the musical architecture around her.

A meaningful chapter of her artistic legacy is also being revisited with the re-release of her 1983 debut album *Consider Me*. The project is being issued in Japan by P-Vine Records, introducing the recording to a new generation of listeners. Madsen has expressed deep gratitude for the rediscovery of what many have called a "hidden gem," noting the honor of seeing this early work brought back to life with renewed care and international appreciation.

Equally at home in intimate trio settings, large ensemble performances, and symphonic collaborations, Madsen has cultivated a performance career that reflects both versatility and artistic clarity. Her work includes ongoing concert series and residencies, as well as collaborations with leading musicians across jazz and related genres. Whether performing in a small jazz club or with a full orchestra, she brings a refined sense of narrative and connection to every stage.

In addition to her work as a performer and recording artist, Madsen is a dedicated educator and mentor. As the creator of *The Performative Singer*, she has influenced generations of vocalists, emphasizing the integration of technique, storytelling, and personal expression. Her approach to teaching reflects her belief that jazz is an oral and experiential tradition, passed from artist to artist through mentorship, collaboration, and shared exploration.

Madsen's artistic journey began with early musical training and a deep affinity for song. Over time, that foundation evolved into a career defined by curiosity, discipline, and a willingness to take creative risks. From her early recordings to her current large-scale projects, she has continually expanded her artistic scope while remaining rooted in the essence of the music.

Today, Jennifer Madsen continues to record, perform, and develop new projects that bridge genres and audiences. With a growing discography, an expanding international presence, and a clear artistic vision, she stands as a compelling voice in contemporary jazz, honoring the past while actively shaping its future.