

## **LISA KIRCHNER MUSIC PROGRAMS- TESTEMONIALS AND REVIEWS 2000-2013**

### **TESTIMONIALS**

"Every song in Lisa Kirchner's album, *Umbrellas in Mint*, is worth your attention and time. Ms. Kirchner not only has a beautiful voice, but she is a master poet with a musical gift. I thank her for including in her liner notes all the words to all the songs, and I recommend that you listen and follow along as I did."- **Carl Reiner**

"Lisa Kirchner is her great father's daughter in talent and originality. She never takes the expected or easy way, and her songs reflect the joys and agonies of her life's experiences. Listen, and you will be won over. You may even hear a hint of Leon-- a truly haunting shadow of his smile!"- **Paul Chihara**

"*Umbrellas in Mint*," Lisa Kirchner's new CD, is the most exciting album Ms. Kirchner has yet to produce. She is in beautiful voice, the shimmering, delicious lines of her vocals are here in abundance, giving the listener shivers of pure pleasure; and the songs! Her writing continues to flourish, as a garden of lyric beauty. What a singer! and what a CD! I am impressed, as I always have been, by Lisa Kirchner's talent and her continuing success as a singer, writer and performer"  
- **Judy Collins**

"Backed up by a deft and swingingly inventive trio (adding a featured accordion) Lisa Kirchner sings with an affecting blend of elegance and vulnerability. In a fine album that casts a nostalgic, intoxicating spell over the listener, like a wine saved for a special occasion, she offers a lesson in the understated craft of cosmopolitan cabaret and jazz singing. Singing both French and American songs, Kirchner presents the notes and words in astutely judged readings that are both dignified and infinitely wistful. The program is expertly planned and varied. Those of her own songs included here are original, sometimes almost surreal in construction, and reflect her long love affair with European and American popular song. This is a wonderful album." - **Allen Shawn/Somposer/Author/Pianist**

"Lisa Kirchner is a singer/songwriter of refinement and beauty. Her original songs derive from a life of music and experience; one senses the depth of her work while being struck by its lightness. Lisa's treatment of the classic songs of yesterday gives these songs new life while her performing style transports her fellow musicians and the listener to a keener understanding of their lyrics and harmonic subtleties".- **Fred Sherry/ Cellist/ Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society**

"Like all true singers of song, Lisa takes her vocal expertise for granted and concentrates entirely upon the text. Every nuance of the words- each twist and turn and lilt and sob and smile- contains, and expresses, the experience of *She Who Was There*. She performs from the inside out. *Prima la parola...* Whatever the language- English, Spanish, Portuguese, French (or, rather, Parisian), Provençal- the shading seems inevitable, and the diction flawless. Lisa has manners but no mannerisms: she sings less about having been in love than because she was in love. Her repertory is unhackneyed and tasteful and mostly very poignant. I am a fan because there is nobody like her in our loud crass vulgar milieu of music, and because she knows what she's doing and how to do it."  
- **Ned Rorem**

"Lisa Kirchner's latest collection fits all seasons of the heart. During the very first listening one moves easily to the soul-light flowing in. And you keep going back again and again- finding yourself pleasantly pinned inside a wall of exquisite and beguiling sounds. For sometime now her imagination has been looking for secrets. Now, with a soul that has been working overtime, she has found them. And another star is born." - **Gordon Parks**

"Lisa is a natural born composer with a sensual voice and a stirring, tactile delivery"  
- **Frank Lacy/Trombonist/Composer/Singer**

"Lisa is a wonderful artist and vocalist with a great passion for composing, and performing. She is a talent that touches her audience with her love and dedication to music."  
- **Ron Jackson/Guitarist/Composer. Arranger**

"Lisa Kirchner's sultry way with a song is very winning...."- **Ruth Laredo**

"Lisa finds that subterranean tone in her voice and in the song that raises pop singing to an art."  
- **Galt MacDermot**

"It is beautiful to hear Lisa Kirchner's singing which is so very musical, genuine and touching"  
- **Peter Serkin**

"Lilting, lyrical and lush, the voice of Lisa Kirchner thrills, soothes and delights" - **Judy Collins**

"Lisa Kirchner is that rare phenomenon of the consummate performer whose artistry is world-class. Unforgettable is her unique sound and the manner of her musical presentation. Like a magnet, she draws the listener into the complete compass of what it means to be a human being from our most earthy elements to the sublime. Her voice says it all as she uses her extraordinary gifts in the service of the music she is singing. Listening to Lisa Kirchner is an experience not to be missed."  
- **Luise Vosgerchian, Harvard University**

"Lisa finds that subterranean tone in her voice and in the song that raises pop singing to an art."  
- **Galt MacDermot**

**CROSSOVER JAZZ-CLASSICAL- "SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT" 2011- THE SONGS OF LEON KIRCHNER, JOHN CORIGLIANO, JOHN HARBISON, AARON COPLAND, STANLEY SILVERMAN, BILL BOLCOM, PAUL CHIHARA, NED ROREM, DAVID DEL TREDICI, SAM BARBER, CHARLES IVES- PIANO SCORES TRANSPOSED AND WITH IMPROVISED JAZZ ACCOMPANIMENT.**

"Lisa Kirchner is an extraordinarily versatile singer, and this new release embraces a wide range of musical styles, from show songs to folk songs and pop songs by great American composers...Few singers can produce such convincing performances across a wide range of musical genres."  
- **John Watson/Jazz Camera**

<http://www.jazzcamera.co.uk/index.php?page=test>

"In a world where mediocracy seems to be commonplace, Lisa offers a breath of fresh air ...beautifully uncommon melodies sung with just the right experience and emotion. Add to this some of today's most accomplished musicians and "Something to Sing About" is just that"

- **Joe Zupan/WICN, New England's Jazz & Folk station Worcester, MA**

« ...beautiful - and unique - takes on the songs of the extraordinary composers her father knew (including, for that matter, himself!), which add delicious (and nutritious) flavor to our classical playlists. »- **Barney Sherman, Senior Music Producer and Afternoon Host, Iowa Public Radio Classical, author of Inside Early Music**

« ... taking vocal material by many 20th Century composers and placing them in the realm of jazz. Kirchner, the daughter of Leon Kirchner, selected material by many musicians who had a connection to her father, and this personal relationship is evident in the tracks. Her musicianship is spot on throughout as she navigates some very tricky melodic lines and sells them convincingly as natural jazz tunes.... This is the best that cross-over projects can offer: finding a new vehicle for an old idea that seems almost more natural than the original. - **Doug Laustsen/WRSU**

<http://epmusic.wordpress.com/2011/07/26/review-lisa-kirchners-something-to-sing-about/>

At the album's heart lies Kirchner's intense knowledge of her material, combined with an ability to render it accessible. Rewarding and fascinating stuff. **Piers Ford/Art of A Torch Singer**

<http://cry-me-a-torch-song.com/tag/lisa-kirchner/>;

« ...you really have to hear the songs to get a handle on the album's uniqueness... In these performances, the songs sound not like crossover -- classical music dressed up as jazz -- but like they were written as jazzy pop tunes, even though, paradoxically the tunes are presented essentially unaltered, just as the composers wrote them. ... these performances sound like persuasive, frequently beguiling, renditions of jazz standards. Kirchner's dusky voice is seductive and wears well, and she sings with easy spontaneity and intuitive musicality »- **Stephen Eddins/Allmusic**

<http://www.allmusic.com/album/something-to-sing-about-w268219/review>

« This is crossover in the best sense, the kind of thing Kurt Weill championed when he came to America (Kirchner has performed Weill, and it shows). These arrangements swing, but they are chosen so cannily that they come off winningly. If Ives knew his 'In Autumn' would "cross over" into jazz, I believe he would be delighted; and many of the others (John Corigliano, Ned Rorem) actively participated in this project...This is a refreshing and enjoyable release."

- **SULLIVAN/American Record Guide**

« ...a beautiful realization and clearly the one that corresponds most closely to a personality so richly musical, but also so accomplished in terms of style...Lisa Kirchner adapts herself to the entire repertoire, and because she gives a lot of room to the musicians, each brings his own voice creating coherence, heard in the beautiful « Crazy Love, Crazy Heart », the only Lisa Kirchner original. It is an exceptional accomplishment in musical arrangement to arrive at such a unity of tone, with marvelous success »- **Yves Sportis/Jazz Hot © Jazz Hot n° 663, Spring 2013**

(English Tr.) <http://www.jazzhot.net/PBEvents.asp?ItemID=24161>

(French Orig.) <http://www.jazzhot.net/PBEvents.asp>ActionID=67240448&PBItemID=24033>

## COMPOSER-LYRICIST CROSSING GENRES- JAZZ STANDARD STYLE, COUNTRY, FOLK, POP, "THEATER" SONGS BY LISA KIRCHNER- "UMBRELLAS IN MINT" 2013

"Lisa Kirchner's songs in Umbrellas In Mint are pure poetry... Lisa Kirchner isn't good. Lisa Kirchner is great. The woman is a poet. Her lyrics demand attention, and the fact that she sets them in a variety of elegant melodies puts her in the same class with the best of the singer/poets. And besides that, she can sing. Her voice has the kind of classic purity that does full justice to her remarkable lyrics... This is a unique voice..." - **Jack Goodstein/BCMusic Premium**

<http://blogcritics.org/music/article/music-review-lisa-kirchner-umbrellas-in/>

...Every song here was in fact written by the wild-maned Kirchner and, for me, brings back tangs of the underlauded Robert Kraft, among others, as the Carmichaelish What About You? (LOVE that "A ceiling at midnight, where stars shine on cue" line!) demonstrates. A wide palette of world influences invade the entire cycle here, subordinated beautifully to the dominantly Broadway ambiance... Expect generous doses of Rogers & Hart, Brel, Hammerstein, and a bunch of others in the Songbook milieu, but there are also a number of surprisingly Brechtian tinges, as Kirchner's unafraid of the shadows populating boulevards and hearts. She knows those darksome dimensions are just wellsprings... Umbrellas is an exhilarating escapade, a collection of songs wrought for a stage musical yet to be put beneath the lights..."

- **Mark S. Tucker/Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange**

<http://www.acousticmusic.com/fame/p08593.htm>

Drawing from jazz, Broadway, cabaret and Great American Songbook influences, Kirchner presents a dozen outstanding originals. They're rich in diversity, imagery and emotion. "Under The Paris Moon" and "Southern Starlight" are especially enchanting. "A Billion Stars Ago (In The Shadow of a Crow)" is intricately designed and intriguingly performed. Kirchner's elegantly expressive voice caresses her well-crafted lyrics and delicately woven melodies. - **Paul Freeman/PopCultureClassics.Com**

<http://popcultureclassics.com/deja.html>

If it can be said that anyone has music in her D.N.A., that person would be Lisa Kirchner... Umbrellas in Mint is full of story-songs that might be taken from a progressive Broadway show, the melodies strong and the lyrics full of emotion. Ms. Kirchner sings in a way that draws the listener in, making us hang on her phrasing to see where the story - or the musical composition - will go next. While so many jazz singers are content to recycle the Great American Song Book, she is staking out new ground. -

**Jeffrey Siegel/Straight No Chaser**

<http://straightnochaserjazz.libsyn.com/podcast-3-a-conversation-with-lisa-kirchner>

" the first thing you'll note is that her flame- colored hair grows increasingly untamed. So, too, has her musicality grown steadily bolder and wilder. Serving up her first platter of all-original material , the dusky-voiced Kirchner reaches a new apex, pairing poetry as densely atmospheric as Mitchell's or Waits' with melodies that reflect her longstanding cosmopolitan flair, and melding influences as varied as Brel, Brecht, Weill, Gershwin, Becker and Fagen... All in all, Umbrellas is an exhilarating crazy quilt." - **Christopher Loudon/Jazz Times**

**AMERICAN SONG- STANDARDS AND FRENCH AND BRAZILIAN SONGS- "IN THE SHADOW OF A CROW", "WHEN LIGHTS ARE LOW", ONE MORE RHYME"**

"It's a musical revelation to hear what Lisa does with her voice. A sound imbued with sophistication, beauty, and style so rare to hear from any singer these days. I look forward to the next effort from this multitalented lady who has brought her wonderful artistry to theatre, Broadway, radio, and television. "- **Ron Della Chiesa WGBH Radio Boston/ WPLM Radio Plymouth**

" out pours this astonishing mix of ash and gravel that combines the talk-sing sophistication of Mabel Mercer with the gutsy appeal of Dee Dee Bridgewater. Kirchner's rusty world-weariness borrows liberally from Billie Holiday...unique sort of cabaret theatricality that defined Mercer's incomparability. - **Christopher Loudon- JazzTimes**

<http://jazztimes.com/articles/13757-when-lights-are-low-lisa-kirchner>

"There isn't a more articulate interpreter of standards singing today....the millennium's first true renaissance woman." -**Joe Zupan WICN FM 90.5 Massachusetts**

" many listeners will be delighted to hear these classic standards performed with such taste and refinement." - **Ron Della Chiesa, WGBH, MA**

"In the Shadow of a Crow" featuring vocalist Lisa Kirchner and her marvelous musicians is a collection of standards and original songs that I can highly recommend. It's a musical revelation to hear what Lisa does with her voice. A sound imbued with sophistication, beauty, and style so rare to hear from any singer these days. I look forward to the next effort from this multitalented lady who has brought her wonderful artistry to theatre, Broadway, radio, and television. "  
- **Ron Della Chiesa WGBH Radio Boston/ WPLM Radio Plymouth**

"...subtle renditions... novel interpretation... vocal magic... The singer's view of "All or Nothing at All", includes a slight Latin beat and matches performances of this song by such geniuses of the vocal arts as Sarah Vaughan, Chris Connor and June Christy. But it's the sensitivity to music and lyrics and the way she works with her sidemen that brings her version to the level of these other singers... strong evidence of formidable musical genes...."- **Dave Nathan- All Music Guide, All About Jazz**  
<http://www.allmusic.com/album/one-more-rhyme-mw0000622367>

"Her voice is unique in the manner that Eartha Kitt and Dinah Washington are instantly identifiable. In the company of a fine jazz quartet, the singer is confident and relaxed. Lisa Kirchner's version of the Victor Young classic (Street of Dreams) is a wonderful throbbing treatment that's very easy to take. The mellow mood is unbroken when Lisa and pianist, Xavier Davis offer a fabulous rendition of You Don't Know What Love Is. ..Luiz Bonfá's Manha de Carnival gets royal treatment when the vocalist exhibits her skills in Portuguese. You've Changed receives the most discerning treatment I've heard in recent years. a sensitive artist in an intimate performance. Lisa Kirchner is an eloquent voice in the night. -**Richard Boucier-Jazzreview.com**  
<http://www.jazzreview.com/cd-reviews/jazz-vocals-cd-reviews/when-lights-are-low-by-lisa-kirchner.html>

"Lisa Kirchner, in my opinion, is a voice of the night. Her beautiful and sultry phrasings are difficult to imagine outside the intimate atmosphere of a cozy and classy night spot. Singing in English, Portuguese and near flawless French, Ms. Kirchner takes the listener on a journey through the songs of the Americas and Europe in a delightful way. From Jimmy Van Heusen and Johnny Burke's "But Beautiful" to Henri Contet's "Padam, Padam", the singer commands the listener's attention. I especially appreciated her sensitive rendition of Jacques Brel's unforgettable "Ne Me Quitte Pas" (Don't Leave Me). The title tune, "One More Rhyme" is a collaboration between Lisa and James Weidman in the form of a tender jazz ballad. Lisa composed "Blue By The River" with the Canadian born pianist/ composer Galt MacDermot who is fondly remembered as the writer of the classic musical production "Hair" in the days of bell bottoms and flower power. "Blue By The River" tells of the serene Mississippi and New Orleans. The set winds up with a bluesy version of "Red Sails In The Sunset" and some great piano by James Weidman.

I really enjoyed this CD and recommend it to those who share my taste for jazz with an international flavor. - **Richard Bourcier/jazzreview.com**

<http://jazzreview.com/cd-reviews/jazz-vocals-cd-reviews/one-more-rhyme-by-lisa-kirchner.html>

## **FRENCH CHANSONS**

"the French songs defy explanation when it comes to intensity and emotion... Her renditions of 'Ne Me Quitte Pas' and 'Jessie' may be the most heart-wrenching ever" -**Electronic Link Journey**

"Three French titles and excellently interpreted by Lisa Kirchner...the delicate attention of a connoisseur, who has chosen the crème de la crème of musicians... this singer has a lot of talent" - **Michel Bedin/Jazz Hot**

"she's got striking range with the ability to emote rage, loss or longing in equally convincing measure... Her covers of 'Dansa da Solidao' and 'Padam, Padam' were especially vibrant with Kirchner using her arms, torso and face eloquently to embody the passion in the music... Kirchner is a singer who can galvanize the stage both vocally and physically..- **Koroly's Cabaret Corner**

Not only does Lisa Kirchner have a voice of great beauty and a sense of poetry in the way she delivers lyrics, but she also happens to be a rather fine composer ...Probably a bit of her artistry in performing and composing is in her genetic nature; her father was the late brilliant classical composer Leon Kirchner. This combination of musical styles and sung in English, French and Portuguese is as exciting as any new recording by a female vocalist to be released this year. Lisa Kirchner is on top of her form and this Album simply has it all. **Grady Harp/Amazon.com**

<http://www.amazon.com/Charleston-For-You-Lisa-Kirchner/dp/B008GRHZ48>