

## Wren Marie Harrington Bio

Wren Marie Harrington is that relatively rare breed of musical performer, equally adept in opera, musical theatre and more recently Latin jazz/world music. A self-professed gypsy in heart and soul, **Wren** identifies herself with everyone - and no one. Once a diehard opera soprano touring Europe and America, she took a detour through musical theatre, notably Broadway, in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "*Phantom of the Opera*", where as an understudy for the tempestuous diva Carlotta, she rescued many an ailing headlining soprano. The chameleon is currently busy exploring a treasure trove of global music idioms and celebrates her newest home with a debut recording *Light Travels*.

Born in Atlanta, Georgia and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, Wren started as so many did, as a teenager in a church choir. She studied opera in college and began her professional life in Europe. She has a Bachelor of Voice Performance degree from the University of Iowa and studied at the L'Accademia Vocale di Lucca in Italy, and the American Institute of Musical Studies in Austria. She toured concert halls throughout Austria, Italy and Germany and sang operatic soprano roles throughout the US, including roles in *La Boheme*, *Carmen*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *A Chekhov Trilogy* (NY premiere), as well as lighter opera and musical theatre works such as *The Merry Widow*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Showboat*, *The Fantastiks*, *No No*, *Nanette*, and *Man of La Mancha*. Several years after establishing herself in New York City, Wren landed a role in the longest running show on Broadway (*Phantom of the Opera*).

After roosting for a decade on Broadway, Wren's obsession with the sounds of the world beyond drove her to an exploration of the rhythms and melodies that drifted past her window in vibrant uptown Manhattan. Latin American and Brazilian melodies haunted her and she developed a style of singing that invited a partnership between smooth vintage era vocals and jazz and Latin rhythms. She soon became a frequent invited guest artist of Mexican and Italian music festivals and has recorded with jazz pianist and composer Toto Torquati. She performs regularly at the Metropolitan Room and around New York City with her group, the Travel Light Quartet, a seasoned group of notable New York based jazz/world musicians and guest artists from New York's thriving global music scene.

*"Wren Marie Harrington's **Light Travels** has extravagant variety not limited in styles or even languages. The album is simultaneously soothing and tickling." **Jazz Corner***

*"Wonderful!" **Jack Wilkins (guitarist)***

*"Wren Harrington's **Musetta** fused a quick temper and warm heart with a sparkling soprano"*