

SARAH PILLOW

re-interpreting 17th century songs with elements of world, jazz, rock and fusion, sarah pillow creates in music what einstein believed:

the distinction between past, present and future is only a stubbornly persistent illusion.



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SARAH PILLOW

press

"Ms. Pillow has a lovely, natural-sounding tone and versatile gift for interpretation." -James Oestreich, [The New York Times](#)

"In other words, Sarah swings. Her scat version of Bird's "Confirmation" had her rising up into the stratosphere, displaying a formidable vocal range".-Francesca Nemko, [Jazz Now](#)

"...Sarah Pillow sings with considerable allure in the beautiful soaring melody of the lament "Proserpina Gelosa" and the beguiling low register of 'il mio cocente ardore'..."
-Nicholas Rast, [BBC Music Magazine](#)

"...Sarah Pillow's singing of 'O Maria Dei Genetrix' is gorgeous...."
-Stephen Pettit, [The London Sunday Times](#)

"The concert was a tour-de-force for Pillow, who demonstrated a rapt dramatic involvement with the material...she sang with clear tonal purity and her diction in Latin and Italian was impeccable. Most importantly, she added the trills, vocal shadings and elaborate ornamentations that give music from the baroque period its subtlety." - Jeff Johnson, [The Post and Courier](#), Charleston

"The music on this CD ('An Afterthought') features the vocals (and lyrics) of Sarah Pillow, who turns in a first rate performance.... two tracks that really stand out are 'Venus Incognito' and 'The Warrior,' which blend great lyrics and vocal delivery." - John Covach, [Progression](#)

"...after hearing Sarah Pillow's delivery of the Improvisation on the Passacaglia I was not surprised to learn that she is also 'an accomplished jazz singer'..."
- John Duarte, [Gramophone](#)

"...my hat goes off to Sarah Pillow! And to Buckyball Records for sensing the enormous potential in this lady and this genre." - A-J Charron [guitarnoise.com](#)

"...her performing qualities are so great that, imho (in my humble opinion), none of the other contemporary female singers can be compared to her."
- V.M., [Progressor.net](#)

for high resolution pictures please go to: buckyballmusic.com/press

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SARAH PILLOW

biography



One could “modernize” any kind of music, but it is a natural process for Sarah Pillow. “I have continued to pursue both a classical and jazz career independently,” she says. “The only limitations being that I don’t schedule a jazz gig the night before a classical concert. I do need some time to ‘shift gears.’ It’s certainly not easy, but it is even harder to choose one style to pursue over the other, so- I do both.” Pillow, who is the leader of a jazz quartet and Baroque music ensemble, finds it a normal process to put the two together to create what she calls Modern Pearl Music. “The word ‘Baroque’ has a long history, but has been credited to come from the Portuguese word for a misshapen pearl,” says Pillow. “It is associated with sensuous richness, vigorous movement and emotional intensity.”

First trained as a jazz singer and improviser in California, Pillow then went on to earn a Bachelor’s degree of Music from Oberlin Conservatory, where she studied opera, art song and oratorio. She continues to sing both in the appropriate venue, but with her new CD Remixes, the two find a home under one roof. “Since Baroque music has such beautiful melodies and texts, it works well in a modern format, with bass, drums, guitar, vibes and synth. I’m also hoping to expose more people to the glorious music that preceded Bach and Händel.”

Drawing on her strengths in both styles, Pillow can sing in several languages, paraphrase a melody line, and switch back and forth effortlessly between her classical and jazz voice. “Perhaps what helps is that I never think of it as two voices, but one voice that is being used in whatever way the music demands.” Pillow is probably one of the few singers concurrently reviewed for both her popular and classical singing.

Remixes, the second recording by Pillow in this Nuove Musiche style, is a Two-CD set. The first CD contains a selection of Baroque songs featuring Pillow’s ensemble Galileo’s Daughters, with Mary Anne Ballard on viola da gamba and Jennifer Peterson on harpsichord. She also asked lutenist Ronn McFarlane and organist Dongsok Shin to join in the traditional renditions of the songs. The second CD has the same songs as the first and is in the same sequence, but features the group Tunnels, which is Marc Wagnon on vibraphone; Percy Jones on bass; and Frank Katz on drums. Also featured is guitarist John Goodsall, who along with Jones was a founding member of the 70’s pioneering fusion group Brand X. The modern arrangements are by Pillow, Wagnon, Jones and Goodsall.

“The process of putting the two styles together was totally organic, in that things just happened and all of a sudden there was this new style that was born,” says Pillow. “The members of Brand X had gotten together to record Manifest Destiny and Marc, having played with Percy and Frank in Tunnels, joined them on this recording. They did a few gigs to promote the record in the Northeast and so John Goodsall was hanging out at our place. He was playing this beautiful arpeggio line on the guitar and I started singing ‘Amarilli mia bella’ over it. It worked so well that he figured out the bridge section. I moved some rhythms around and we arranged that first song in about 10 minutes! The rest didn’t come quite as easily but we knew we were on to something, so we kept going.”

According to Pillow, it wasn’t her intention to work with the Brand X boys on the Nuove Musiche project, but in hindsight she concludes that it was the only way this 17th century music could be re-arranged to sound completely new. “These guys weren’t familiar at all with the original music, so they approached the songs without any pre-conceived notions about how the music ‘should’ sound. I think it’s a beautiful marriage of the two eras expressed on the recording.”

for further information or to set up an interview with sarah pillow, please contact
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SARAH PILLOW

discography

remixes

early baroque music & modern pearl music/purcell-sances-dowland-lawes/pillow-wagnon-goodsall-jones/br010 buckyball records

nuove musiche

modern pearl music/pillow-wagnon-goodsall-jones/br007 buckyball records

an afterthought

jazz fusion/pillow-wagnon-douglas-anderson/br004 buckyball records

g. felice sances (c.1600-1679)

sacred and secular songs/musica fabula/asv gaudeamus 193

g. felice sances

missa sollicitas & sacred motets musica fabula/asv gaudeamus 180

paper cuts

jazz standards/pillow-wagnon-douglas/br001 buckyball records

g. felice sances

17th c. music for sop., harp & guitar Musica Fabula/ASV Gaudeamus 155

henry purcell dido and aeneas

opera/ i musici di san cassiano/7518 vox classics

georgian music for harp and soprano

18th century/ musica fabula/ cd 203 soundalive music



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band biographies

marc wagnon (electronic vibraphone, synth and percussion)

born in switzerland, marc studied classical percussion at the geneva conservatory while performing as a drummer in several jazz-rock groups. marc moved to the united states to study at the berklee college of music, focusing on the vibraphone and percussion. he soon moved to new york city where the cultural diversity influenced him in his playing and compositions. his first group in new york, *shadowlines*, included such prestigious musicians as dave kikoski, ray anderson and dave douglas. marc has performed and recorded extensively in the u.s., south america and europe with *shadowlines*, the avant-rock group *dr. nerve*, *brand x*, *gongzilla*, and *tunnels*. marc is producer and co-authors most of the arrangements on *remixes*.

percy jones (bass, sequencing)

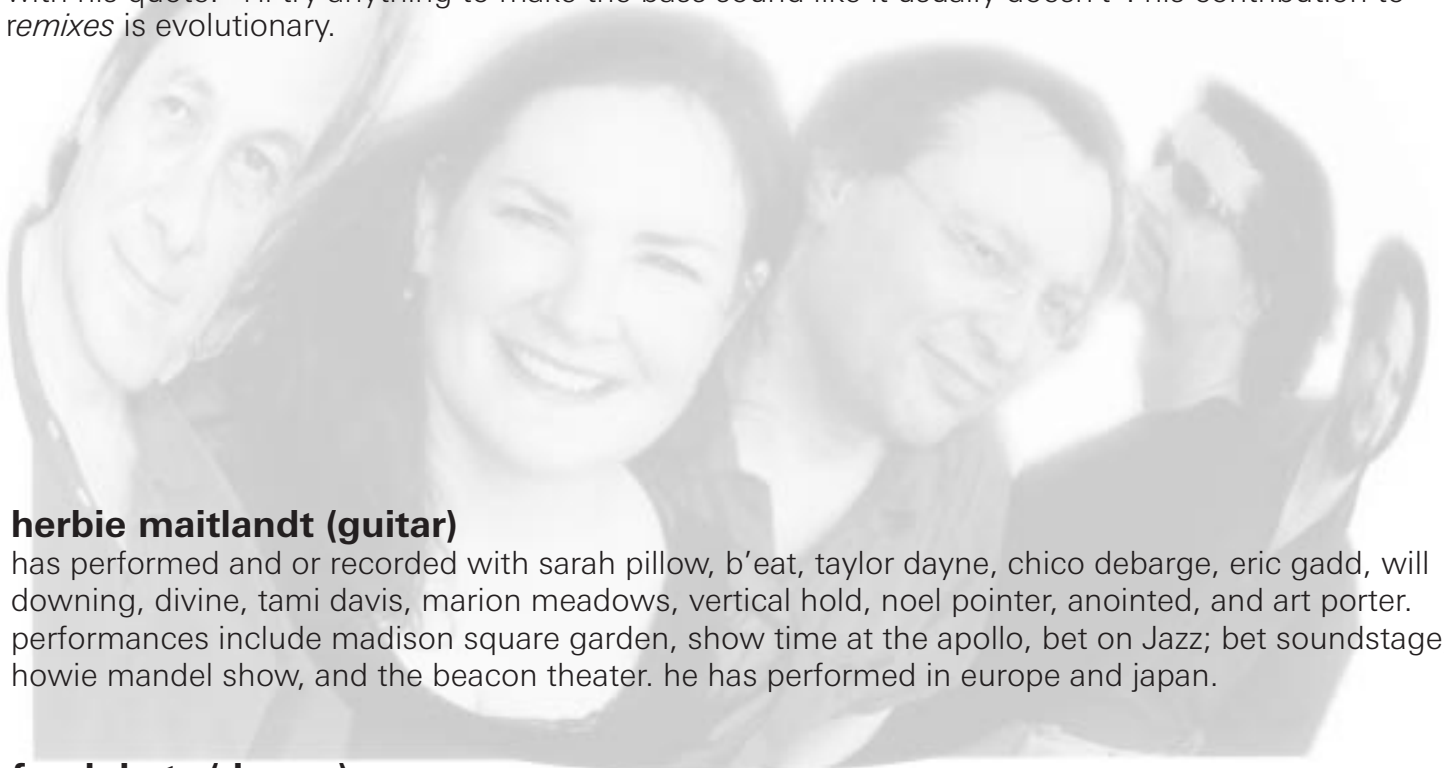
a native of wales, percy played with *liverpool scene* and *scaffold*, and toured the u.k. pub/club circuit extensively. he is a founding member of *brand x* and it is his and john goodsall's musical character that has defined the band throughout the years. his album credits include three albums with *liverpool scene*, seven with *brand x*, *paranoise*, masami tsuchiya, *tunnels*, two solo albums and numerous sessions and performances with names such as brian eno, bill frisell, roy harper, nova, elliot sharpe, bobby previte and suzanne vega. percy is considered to be one of the greatest bass players in the world by [bass player magazine](#). percy's unique approach to the fretless bass can be summarized with his quote: "i'll try anything to make the bass sound like it usually doesn't". his contribution to *remixes* is evolutionary.

herbie maitlandt (guitar)

has performed and or recorded with sarah pillow, b'eat, taylor dayne, chico debarge, eric gadd, will downing, divine, tami davis, marion meadows, vertical hold, noel pointer, anointed, and art porter. performances include madison square garden, show time at the apollo, bet on Jazz; bet soundstage, howie mandel show, and the beacon theater. he has performed in europe and japan.

frank katz (drums)

according to herbie hancock's drummer mike clark, "frank katz is one of the most exciting discoveries since jack dejohnette and tony williams." frank started playing drums at the age of six and appeared on his first album at the age of seventeen, and two years later joined the faculty of the new york drummers collective. frank has toured extensively with *brand x* and appears on their latest studio releases *x communication* and *manifest destiny*.



ticket

TOMPKINS COUNTY'S ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Ithaca music fans have long been known for being open to different kinds of music, so those who are looking for something new and exciting should head down to the Haunt Tuesday night for the double bill of Tunnels and Nuove Musiche.

Tunnels is the well-known fusion group featuring legendary fretless bassist Percy Jones, formerly of Brand X. Also including drummer Frank Katz and vibist Marc Wagnon, Tunnels combines rock, jazz, and world music influences and taking them into new sonic territory. Monster playing is par for the course, as demonstrated on the band's latest CD, "Progressivity."

Nuove Musiche is another intriguing band, in that it features the members of Tunnels plus guitarist Herbie Maitland and vocalist Sarah Pillow performing music from the 16th and 17th century with a modern twist. The quintet draws from composers such as Henry Purcell, John Dowland and Claudio Monteverdi for a range of songs sung in Italian, Latin, English and Spanish, but with contemporary accompaniment based in pop, jazz and progressive rock.

"We wanted to blow the dust off these songs and present them in a new way," says Pillow. "We tried to take the songs and make them relevant today with modern arrangements, but the only way you can do that is if you use musicians who aren't familiar with the early repertoire. I tend to be the bridge between the two genres of jazz/pop and early music/classical. Some songs I sing in classical voice and some in a pop or jazz voice, depending on what the song calls for. But the melodies are timeless, and the music is accessible, very lyrical and flowing."

Pillow says that except for a few ardent Purcell fans in England, who were aghast at the thought of messing with the master's works, Nuove Musiche (Italian for the New Music) has gotten good responses.

"People are fascinated by it, mainly because we're doing something different," she says. "And if the composers were alive today, I can't help but think that they would at least be flattered by what we're doing. They were forward thinking, and frequently crossed over genres to make a living in music."

To learn more about Tunnels and Nuove Musiche, surf to www.buckyballmusic.com. Cover is \$5 for the 8 p.m. show. Call 275-3447 or visit www.thehaunt.com for more information.

PRESS CLIPS



The *Nuove Musiche Project* is essentially renowned vocal interpreter Sarah Pillow's arrangement and rearrangement of classic, 17th-century melodies and texts to the style of modern jazz-rock. The album features pieces from composers across the world, from Caccini, Purcell, Monteverdi and Dowland, and Pillow sings the words in their original, intended languages. Her voice flutters with the capability of a trained opera singer, but it also dips and bends the way only a natural jazz crooner can do, and though the album has some serious and somber moments, she also adds lighthearted personality, like a giggle in the beginning of a number or an overly enunciated word, to some of the livelier tracks. Pillow's work is unquestionably jazz-based, but these songs, with accompaniment by backing band Brand X, stretch over many genres in their interpretation, and elements of prog rock, funk and classical balladry are present. Members of progressive ensemble Brand X are also part of Tunnels, an analytical, instrumental outfit whose creative steering wheel is set on neutral, taking them wherever the environment or mood suggests. Their songs range from four minutes to twenty, each full of innovative bursts of musical twists, anchored by the rhythm of Frank Katz's consistent drumming and the elastic bass playing of Percy Jones, considered one of the world's foremost bassists. As masters of fusion and the modern technique, they create a scope of specialized sound that follows no set method. Tunnels will accompany Pillow in tonight's performance, but they will also play their own set.

—VOGMA

SHARON

Bridging a musical divide

Singer doesn't choose between jazz, classical

By Joe Pinchot
Herald Staff Writer

Although George Gershwin incorporated jazz into his classical compositions and trumpeter Wynton Marsalis has found success in both worlds, there often is a split in the perception each side has for the other.

"If I go to a classical audition, I tend not to mention that I sing jazz because they'll listen to you differently," said vocalist Sarah Pillow. "There is a prejudice there. When people know you've sung jazz or pop, they tend to think that you're tuning isn't right."

Ms. Pillow, who sings Tuesday in Penn State Theatre, Sharon, is doing her part to bring classical and jazz listeners together by singing both.

She started singing jazz and musical theater, but found herself attracted to classical reper-

toire as a young woman.

"I decided I wanted to have a wider horizon," she said, and studied classical singing at Oberlin (Ohio) College.

As a jazz singer, Ms. Pillow has sung at the Montreux Jazz festival in Switzerland, received a Downbeat magazine award for performance, and recorded albums of standards and jazz fusion.

On the classical front, the lyric coloratura soprano has sung Mozart's Mass in C minor and Bach's Mass in B minor, toured as a recitalist, appeared with the New York Philharmonic and recorded sacred and secular songs of the 17th century — sometimes with her group Musica Fabula — and Henry Purcell pieces.

She loves improvisation and scat singing as much as a pure tone and foreign languages.

"I could never give up one for the other," she said, answering the telephone at Buckyball Music Inc., the label she is vice president of, in New York. "There's always been an opportunity to keep both going."

For the Sharon show, she will be performing jazz stan-

dards by the likes of Miles Davis, Billy Strayhorn and Thelonious Monk, blues and some songs from her latest recording, "Nuove Musiche," a jazz-classical-rock fusion project.

"Nuove Musiche" — which means "the new music" — is a recording of new arrangements of songs written in 1601 by Italian composer Giulio Caccini.

"The music is timeless, and the melodies and text are beautiful," she said.

She chooses to sing new arrangements because "it's there to interpret. People climb mountains because they're there."

Reinterpretation of music is human nature, and she compares her "Nuove Musiche" project to the plethora of tribute albums to artists such as Elton John and Joni Mitchell.

Having studied composers and their motivations for writing many of the classical works she has sung, Ms. Pillow said she thinks they would approve of her updates.

"They would be thrilled with how I'm singing this music," said the native of San Luis Obispo, Calif. "They weren't

stuff at all."

Ms. Pillow said she sees the music business slowly creeping toward her point of view.

"Music is changing and in a good direction," she said. "Styles are coming together with integrity. Pure styles are coming together and making new sounds."

While she sometimes meets people who know her classical singing and aren't thrilled with jazz — and vice versa — she's hoping that fans will trust her name and reputation.

"I'm hoping to develop a career so people will like the concept and come and see what I'm doing," she said.

For the concert, Ms. Pillow will be joined by vibraphonist Marc Wagon, who is president of Buckyball, a member of the jazz band Tunnels and former member of the pioneering jazz fusion band Brand X; bassist Percy Jones, who has worked with Brand X; Suzanne Vega and Brian Eno; and drummer Frank Katz, another Brand X alum.

Tuesday's concert starts at 7:30 p.m. and is free. Informa-



Sarah Pillow

tion: (724) 983-2835.

Ms. Pillow and the Tunnels also have gigs set for 8 p.m. March 27 at Club Cafe, Pittsburgh, and 9 p.m. April 2 at Beachland Ballroom, Euclid, Ohio. Club Cafe tickets: (330) 747-1212, *Kaufmann's or Jagl Entertainment, Hermitage* *an* *www.ticketmaster.com* *Informa* *tion: (412) 431-4950* *an* *www.clubcafe.com*. *Beach* *land information: (216) 381-1124* *and* *www.beachlandballroom.com*