

Rachel Beausoleil – Long Bio

Rachel Beausoleil grew up with music at the centre of her world. Born and raised in Montreal, her favourite family gatherings were filled with sounds of French call-and-response songs. For over 25 years, Rachel has followed her life-long passion for all aspects of voice work. Her voice studies include working with acclaimed bass-baritone Ingemar Korjus, while he was the Voice Department Head at the University of Ottawa. She studied improvisation with JUNO winner Jeri Brown.

Rachel's studies were also academic, and always centered around singing. Her Master's thesis from the University of Ottawa is on vocal jazz improvisation.

In 2018, she completed her PhD at Carleton University, in Cultural Mediations, with a focus on Brazilian popular song.

In a masterclass, Brazilian living legend **Rosa Passos** told Rachel, "You are already an interpreter. Congratulations. I much enjoyed it. Beautiful timbre. I liked your vibrato, which you always use with discretion and at the right moment, without too much exaggeration. My, thank you, what beauty."

Rachel also had private instruction from award-winning Rio-based singer Livia Netrovski and acclaimed guitarist Fred Ferreira.

While in Brazil, Rachel conducted vocal masterclasses, conferences and pocket shows at:

- ♪ Faculdade Santa Marcelina (masterclasses)
- ♪ Faculdade Cantareira (masterclass/pocket show)
- ♪ University of Campinas (masterclass)
- ♪ Espaço Musical (conference/pocket show)
- ♪ Latin America's largest university, University of São Paulo (conference/pocket show and choral workshop)

Her performances show her love of languages, world musics and a fondness for drama and dance.

Noteworthy venues where Rachel has performed include:

- ♪ the Molson Stage at Toronto's Harbourfront
- ♪ the Prime Minister's residence, in Ottawa
- ♪ Le Casino de Hull
- ♪ Le Balcon, in Montreal
- ♪ Almanaque Café, in Campinas, Brazil
- ♪ Madeleine Bar, in São Paulo, Brazil

Rachel has toured Brazil, performing with Evandro Gracelli (guitar), Emilio Martins (percussion) and Yaniel Matos (piano). They toured with the Panamérica Canção Project in 2013, performing in Ottawa, São Paulo, Campinas, São Carlos, and São José do Rio Preto.

Since the days of Ottawa's After Eight Jazz club in the early 1990s, Rachel has been part of many vocal groups:

- ♪ a capella jazz sextet, C'est What?
- ♪ the University of Ottawa's Calixa Lavalée chamber choir
- ♪ Vox Eclectica women's chamber choir
- ♪ The Juliet Singers treble voice trio
- ♪ The Capital Voices mixed vocal quartet.

She has also fronted jazz and Latin combos.

- ♪ Latin jazz group, Caoba (1990s)
- ♪ Jazz combo Sonic Circle (early 2000s)

- ♪ Beausoleil Trio, with guitarist Garry Elliott and percussionist Liz Hanson.
- ♪ Sol da capital Brazilian jazz quintet with co-composer and co-founder, guitarist Evandro Gracelli.

Both Beausoleil Trio and Sol da capital are featured on *Brazz*.

Brazz is Rachel's third worldly jazz CD. She invites the listener on a journey into the vast ocean of Brazilian music. All tracks, except those performed by Gracelli, were recorded in studio, in Cumberland Ontario at Morning Anthem Studios, by Normand Glaude. Normand facilitated the addition of Gracelli's parts, that were recorded in São Paulo, Brazil. He also did all the mixing and mastering. Standard Media's Chris Saracino calls the album "top shelf material."

Close to My Heart (2002), features veteran Canadian guitarist and "Ottawa Jazz Hero" Roddy Ellias as producer, and highly acclaimed Canadian bassist Fraser Hollins. It is a collection of ballads in English, French and Spanish, that includes an original piece, arranged by Ellias.

The Dawning (2009) is an international collection of songs. United States, Belgium, France, Russia, Canada, Brazil and New York's Puerto Rican quarter are featured. Rachel created an intimate trio sound with Ottawa pianist Yves Laroche and bassist Tom Posner, now based in Paris.

Rachel has also recorded a collection of children's songs called *Trille des voix* (2012), and is featured as conductor and vocalist on Elise Letourneau's *Requiem for Fourteen Roses* (2014).

She maintains a thriving home-based private teaching studio in Ottawa. She is sought-after for her expertise in world musics and vocal technique as a faculty member of CAMMAC (Canadian Amateur Musicians, Musiciens amateurs du Canada).

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