

PAULA JEANINE

vocalist, percussionist, lyricist, composer

Multi-talented singer, percussionist and poet Paula Jeanine is an artist with a deep and soulful commitment to the creative path. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Paula Jeanine was raised in a jazz household, being the daughter of June Evinger, a former big band singer with the Emerson Gill Orchestra. Ms. Jeanine honed her musical skills further with mentor Bill Gidney, who had been the regional pianist for Billie Holiday.

Always as much a percussionist as a vocalist, she played in many local bands including that of Robert Jr. Lockwood. Upon moving east, she studied world music at the legendary Creative Music Studio in Woodstock, New York which led to performances and recordings with Bob Moses, Jaco Pastorius and Medeski Martin & Wood (Blue Note). She has added her artistry to the Alessandra Belloni group, Didjworks, Annabouboula (under the name Paula Potocki), Sharam Shiva's Rumi project "Lovedrunk", and was a formative member of the groove-jazz quartet, Wildlife 3000. In recent years, she has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Guggenheim Museum, Radio City Music Hall, the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Beacon Theater.

Ms. Jeanine is a musical affiliate of both the Alvin Ailey Dance Company and the Paul Taylor Dance School. She is currently a member of the Uqbartango ensemble, in which she sings, drums and dances. She was the performing composer of a score for the InterArts Group production of Ionesco's "Rhinoceros" and was a guest staff musician in Spain for the SUNY Purchase Summer in Europe program, creating and performing music for choreographer Kazuko Hirabayashi.

A published poet since the age of seven, Paula Jeanine's lyrics are inspired by musical tours of Egypt, France and Morocco as well as her love of art and architecture. Ms. Jeanine is a Billboard award-winning songwriter.

In December of 2001, Ms. Jeanine was a guest of the Jazz-India Vocal Institute in Mumbai where she studied the traditional raga vocal tradition and its application to jazz. While in India, she presented a series of concerts throughout the country that were met with rave reviews. Ms. Jeanine also studied south Indian percussion with Vidwan Shri T.S. Nandakumar and participated in a classical concert with his ensemble.

A subsequent visit to India in the Fall of 2004 once again yielded a glowing reception, highlighted by her participation in Joe Alvares' prestigious "Jazz for Veda" concert. Ms. Jeanine is an Air India sponsored artist.

Paula Jeanine has led several popular bands in the New York area, including the chamber jazz quartet Bordeaux '95 and the tropical rhythm band Tigresa. She now heads American Ghazal in which she explores her love for classic forms of South Asian music through her unique New York sensibilities.

She lives on the Brooklyn waterfront and can see the Statue of Liberty from her roof.