

Cat Bernardi

Vocalist. Composer. Band Leader.

—Electronic Press Kit—



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—Biography—

Cat Bernardi's love of music began when she was just a young girl, listening to Natalie Cole's "Unforgettable" album while cruising on long car rides with her father. It was not long before other jazz icons like Ella Fitzgerald, Nina Simone, Holly Cole, Norah Jones, and Billy Holiday coerced her into singing jazz music herself.

Cat Bernardi studied Jazz Vocal Music at both York University and Humber College, where she had the opportunity to train under accomplished musicians such as Jane Fair, Maria Farinha, Sacha Williamson and Michael Donovan. Through Toronto Jazz Workshops, she has also had the opportunity to train with jazz legend and be-bop master, Barry Harris. It was not long before she began composing her own music, arranging her favourite standards and playing with several ensembles around the city including the Toronto Jazz Chorus, York University Jazz Choir, and her own group--the Cat Bernardi Quartet.

Cat Bernardi has performed at many of Ontario's most popular Jazz venues such as the Jazz Bistro, Chalker's Bistro and Gate 403, to name a few. She has also performed in esteemed festivals such as the Downtown Oakville Jazz Festival, Scarborough Town Jazz Festival, Hamilton's Steel City Jazz Festival and Toronto's Canadian Music Week. In summer 2019, she was the TD Jazz Hotspot feature for the Markham Music Festival, and summer 2022 was a featured performer the city-wide Canada Day celebration at Mississauga's Celebration Square. Cat performed for the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Elizabeth Dowdeswell in 2022 for an awards ceremony honouring the bravery of public servants at Queen's Park.

It is Cat's original music and distinct style that have had her invited onto Rogers TV twice to perform her original songs, to be nominated as Best Music Artist in the prestigious 2015, 2016 MARTY awards and the 2019 Mississauga Music Awards. Cat has also had her music featured on Jazz FM 91.1, PopCan Radio, Cashbox Radio and Canadian Beats. Cat has shared the stage with Juno award winners Alison Au and Marito Marques, as well as recent Juno nominated bassist, Lauren Falls.

Cat released her debut EP "Minor Ballad/Major Romance" to great acclaim in June 2014. In 2020, Cat self-produced and recorded her MAC Micro-Grant funded EP entitled "Let's Get Cozy." The title track earned her features in Tinnitist magazine, Canadian Beats Magazine, and a top 5 pick in the weekly Canadian Beats *throwdown*. Cat debuted her first musical "And Then She Did" at the 2018 Toronto Fringe Festival, which received a glowing [NNNN review in NOW Toronto Magazine](#).

Most recently, Cat shared the stage with Canadian music legend Liberty Silver (first Black woman to win a Juno award) during Women Wednesday for Mississauga Music Week. at the end of 2022, Cat was awarded a Grant from MAC to record her single 'Mona Lisa,' and shoot its accompanying music video, to be released in June 2023. Cat performed a sold out show in the RBC Theatre of the Living Arts Centre on February 10th—entitled An Evening of Jazz—a double-bill production with award-winning vocalist Shannon Butcher.

Stay tuned for Cat's upcoming show in honour of Italian Heritage Month, set to hit the stage on June 15th 2023. The show is supported by Mississauga's Culture Sector Grant and will be performed at the Maja Prentice Theatre.

—Major Venues/TV Appearances/Festivals—

Major Venue Performances	Festival Features	TV Appearances
RBC Theatre, Living Arts Centre (Mississauga, ON)	Mississauga Music Week	Breakfast Television
Celebration Square (Mississauga, ON)	Canadian Music Week (Toronto, ON)	Rogers TV (Peel) The Kabir Show
Jazz Bistro (Toronto, ON)	Downtown Markham Music Festival	Camoës TV
Hammerson Hall, Living Arts Centre (Mississauga, ON)	Downtown Oakville Jazz Festival	Musically Yours with Deirdre Mallehe
Royal York Fairmont (Toronto, ON)	Taste of Oakville Festival	Rogers TV (Peel) MARTYs Special w/ Randy Persaud
Queen's Park (Toronto City Hall)	TD Toronto Jazz Festival	
Small World Music Centre (Toronto)	Steel City Jazz Festival (Hamilton)	
Piazza Gave (Limano, Toscana, Italy)	Summer Concert Series (Mississauga, ON)	
Piazza Marina (Casoli, Toscana, Italy)	TD Songs of Summer Series (Oakville, ON)	
Université de Laval (Laval, Quebec)	Taste of Little Italy (Toronto, ON)	
The National Club (Toronto, ON)	Culture Days Doors Open (Mississauga, ON)	
Royal Botanical Gardens (Burlington, ON)	Yorkville Exotic Car Show (Toronto, ON)	
Commerce Court (Toronto, ON)		
York University (North York, ON)		

—Some Fun Facts About Cat and her Community Involvement—

- Cat has is the co-host and producer of an annual Cabaret (Vday Cabaret) in support of the YWCA Toronto’s Women’s Shelters and initiatives to support Women and girls who are survivors of violence and domestic abuse. The show has been running for 5 consecutive years, with the 6th set to hit the stage on May 6th, 2023!
- Cat has self-produced over 20 shows, concerts, plays, theatrical productions and student recitals
- Cat is a Music Educator and has been teaching Vocal and Instrumental Music to students in Mississauga and beyond since she was 16 years old!
- Cat has self-produced and performed three well-attended Christmas concerts, including Cat’s Christmas Tales (2017), Christmastime is Here (2018), and Lights, Camera Christmas (2019). All shows collected canned goods and non-perishable items for the Mississauga Food Bank.
- Cat is a playwright and dramaturg; most recently, she was a dramaturg on York University’s Consent Play, seen by thousands of first-year students during their Orientation week. The purpose of the play is to educate students about sexual consent, and provide resources and tools through dramatization
- Cat has written five plays, all which have been produced and performed in the GTA (Ivory Keys, A Bird Called Mary, Right, Anne Will You Write?, And Then...She Did!)
- Cat has been a Music Director and conductor on many shows, including working with the Show Choir at York’s Vanier College Productions
- Cat has directed several plays, and was a co-Artistic Director of her own Theatre Company (Cawrk Theatrical Productions) for over 10 years
- Cat has been a member of the Glimpse (into the Life of a Child) team for three years, participating in three GlimpsePalooza events to date

—Awards & Grants—

2023: Culture Grant Award Winner—Italian Heritage Month concert

2022: MicroGrant Winner—‘Mona Lisa’ Single and Music Video

2020: MicroGrant Winner—‘Let’s Get Cozy’ EP

2020: Musicians as Video Makers Award—‘Let’s Get Cozy’ music video

—Press & Media Quotes—

“...Bernardi is clearly so talented that I’m keen to see what she does next.”

--Christopher Hoile, *NOW Toronto*

“I can listen to Cat Bernardi sing solo or with her quartet for hours on end.”

--Thom Ernst, Host of *Reel Jazz on Jazz FM 91.1*
& *TVO’s This Night at the Movies*

“Cat Bernardi sat in as a guest on a podcast that I co-host and produce...She was simply amazing both as a vocalist and as an interview. We had her open with a couple of songs and her voice translated beautifully into a sound system that is actually designed for dry talk...she didn’t need effects, her voice is that naturally good. For the interview, she was sweet and honest and authentic... She was as if she did sit-down interviews for a living...”

--Christopher Mei “Toph,” Executive Producer and
Co-Host of *The Comedy Fusion Show* Podcast &
host on the Weather Network

“I am so happy I came to see your show! You are such a great performer, singer and vocalist, WOW! You certainly demand that stage...”

On Summer Turns to Fall, a live album recording

--Arlene Paculan, TV Host of *The Hive with Jen and Arlene*

“Bernardi...delivers impressive vocals (at an intelligible decibel level)...”

On Shakespeare in Concert: Twelfth Night

--Kelly Bedard, *My Entertainment World*

—Media and Press Features—

- Feature in MARTYs Hub:
<https://www.martyshub.com/a-timeliness-night-of-jazz-with-shannon-butcher-and-cat-bernardi/>
- Feature in Canadian Beats Magazine:
<https://canadianbeats.ca/2020/12/24/five-questions-with-cat-bernardi/>
- Feature in *Tinnitist Music Blog*:
<https://tinnitist.com/2020/12/21/cat-bernardi-wants-to-get-cozy-on-christmas-single-video/>
- Feature in *Modern Mississauga Magazine*:
<https://www.modernmississauga.com/main/2020/12/10/in-conversation-with-mississauga-musician-cat-bernardi-on-writing-her-first-christmas-song>
- Artist Profile in *Modern Mississauga Magazine*:
<https://www.modernmississauga.com/main/2018/11/1/modern-artist-mississaugas-cat-bernardi>
- Feature Interview on *This Movie's About You* Podcast:
<https://itunes.apple.com/ca/podcast/episode-42-cat-bernardi/id1116493928?i=1000391094333&mt=2>
- Feature on *Women of Substance* Holiday Podcast:
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6db0H7zLR6O73hq63tDqZF?si=WYaPYODzSm6pv4pMsj5u6Q>
- Feature Interview and Performance on *The Comedy Fusion Show*:
<https://comedyfusionshow.com/>
- Review of Cat's Original Musical, "And Then...She Did! In NOW Magazine"
<https://nowtoronto.com/stage/theatre/fringe-review-and-then-she-did/>
- Review of Cat's Original Musical, "And Then...She Did! In NOW Magazine"
<https://www.mooneyontheatre.com/2018/07/06/and-then-she-did-with-whit-and-whimsy-2018-toronto-fringe-review/>
- Review of Cat's Performance in Shakespeare in Concert: Twelfth Night
<https://www.myentertainmentworld.ca/2015/06/shakespeare-in-concert-twelfth-night/>

—Video Links—

- [Official Music Video for Let's Get Cozy](#)
- [City of Mississauga Summer Concert Series Performance](#)
- [Live Footage of "Summer Turns to Fall" at the Small World Music Centre:](#)
- [Performance of "La Vie En Rose" for Arts From Home](#)
- [Performance of Original Song "Love is a Broom" on Rogers TV](#)
- [Promotional Video for Debut EP "Minor Ballad/Major Romance"](#)
- [Studio Video/Recording of Original Song "Your Words Now Mean Nothing to Me"](#)
- [Live Performance of Original Music at Oakville Jazz Festival-Highlights](#)

—Social Media Links—

Website: www.catbernardimusic.com

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/catbernardimusic/>

Youtube: [YouTube.com/@CatBernardiMusic](https://www.youtube.com/@CatBernardiMusic)

SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/the-cat-bernardi-quartet>

—Photos—



