

"GOD, CAN THIS WOMAN SING! It's as if a vocalist from the great post-war blues and jazz combos had been transported to the end of the century." Blues Access Magazine

"KIM, UNA PRIMADONNA DALLA VOCE PROFUNDA! Last year it was Roy Hargrove, this year it is the splendid voice of Kim Nalley that is driving the fans wild at Umbria Jazz. Her voice gives you goosebumps. She is like Jessica Rabbit and Louis Armstrong at the same time." Il Corriere dell'Umbria

"Sultry voiced Kim Nalley brings an irresistibly sexy sense of swing, rhythmic dexterity and beautiful sound to the classics, with her crisp diction and playful delivery of earthy lines." Down Beat

If Dinah Washington had lived in the soul era, she'd sound like Kim Nalley. New York Press

Awarded "Most Influential African American in the Bay Area" in 2005, vocalist Kim Nalley is already being called "legendary" and a "San Francisco institution." With an international reputation as one of world's best jazz & blues vocalists, she has graced concert halls from Moscow to Lincoln Center. A true Renaissance woman, Kim Nalley has also been a featured blog writer for *JazzWest* and San Francisco Chronicle's *City Brights*, shortlisted for a Grammy, a produced playwright, a former jazz club owner, an accomplished stage actress, a history academic, and an avid lindy hop & blues dancer. Her many philanthropic endeavors include founding the Kim Nalley Black Youth Jazz Scholarship.

In looks, Kim Nalley exudes the aura of a diva from a by-gone era. Vocally, she has pipes to burn packing a 3 ½ octave range that can go from operatic to gritty blues on a dime, projection that can whisper a ballad yet is capable of filling a room with no microphone, and the ability to scat blistering solos without ever losing the crowd's interest or the intense swing. She has been compared to all the greats, but in the end, it's Kim Nalley and no one else - an unforced instrument with clarity and jazzy musicality, effortlessly delivered, and a sense of humor to boot.

A born singer from a family that boasts several generations of jazz musicians, Nalley was taught piano by her great-grandmother and studied opera and theatre in high school, and learned all of the intricacies of jazz the old fashioned way --at jam sessions. She relocated to San Francisco in the footsteps of the Grateful Dead, working her way through college by singing in small dives. Nalley Music critic Phil Elwood and San Francisco Symphony conductor Michael Tilson Thomas discovered her singing nightly at the Alta Plaza to packed audiences - without amplification. Kim Nalley was then brought to national attention after they noticed her Tilson Thomas hired Kim Nalley to sing a program of Gershwin with the San Francisco Symphony and recorded her farewell concert at the Alta Plaza.

Since then, Kim Nalley has performed globally, including major jazz festivals such as Monterey, Umbria Jazz and Lincoln Center and lived in Europe for several years before returning to San Francisco to re-open the jazz club Jazz at Pearl's. During her tenure from 2003 to 2008, Nalley raised the club to iconic international acclaim as the owner and artistic director.

kim nalley

www.kimnalley.com

She has collaborated with artists such as Rhoda Scott, David "Fathead" Newman, Houston Person, James Williams, Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony. She has recorded several on both major and indie labels, including *She Put A Spell On Me*, which was short-listed for a 2006 Grammy Award, and *Million Dollar Secret*, which charted in the Jazz Top 40.

Nalley often combines music and history to create historiographical concerts, including her award-winning "Ladies Sing the Blues*," "She Put a Spell on Me: Tribute to Nina Simone," the multimedia presentation Black History Month Concert Series and "The Heart of Lady Day," a Billie Holiday biopic. As a playwright she has written "Ella: the American Dream" a bio-musical about Ella Fitzgerald which premiered in 2008. As an actress she portrayed Billie Holiday in the dramatic play "Lady Day in Love," Blues Speak woman in Zora Neale Hurston's "Spunk" and has starred in Teatro Zinzanni as Madame Zinzanni, a role subsequently filled by Joan Baez and Sandra Reeves-Phillips.

Kim Nalley is on faculty at the Jazzschool's Bachelor's of Music program. She is also a history student in UC Berkeley's PhD program with plans to write her dissertation on the Globalization of Jazz and Black Cultural Politics.