

Judy Philbin, Vocalist

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While some children strive to color outside the lines, Judy Philbin has always wanted to sing outside the melody. She injects her personal style into contemporary and folk, as well as jazz standards, delivering each song with the skill of a lyric storyteller. Her pure, clear tone has been called uplifting, healing, evocative and above all, beautiful.

“After years of classical instrumental and choral background, I yearned to express the music as it touched me personally, not necessarily as it was written,” says Judy. “I still love singing classical and Broadway-style music and, vocally, those are very challenging. I sing the classics whenever the opportunity presents itself. But what also drew me to jazz is the freedom. It allows you to ‘color outside the lines’. It allows you to explore and express musical thoughts and ideas in the moment. Each performance is new and different. It’s exhilarating to create on the spot.”

Her influences have global roots. “We lived in Guatemala for two years, before I even started school. I remember the marimbas, guitars, flutes and myriad percussion. When we moved back to the states, my parents brought back several of those records. But then I began more classical training with piano and singing in the church choir. My mother took me to musicals and I fell in love with the stage. I played piano, picked up guitar and played stand-up bass and drums before settling on the trumpet to play throughout high school (there were more boys in the brass section!). “

But voice has always been her true instrument. “Singing is so personal; it’s your own body creating the sound. There is nothing else like it.”

Judy says she doesn’t consider herself a jazz artist--at least not in the contemporary sense. “I enjoy just about all styles of singing. I’ve even sung in an Irish band. Instead, I consider myself a storyteller that draws from the musical and emotional freedom that grew out of jazz and blues. It’s about moving the listener’s heart an inch, a mile, or sometimes light-years into another dimension.”

Judy understands the mystery of how music can touch and move people's hearts in ways nothing else can do. "As a teenager, I was singing "*Leavin' on a Jet Plane*". In the center of that intimate venue, about three rows back, was a woman—I'll never forget it. The light was reflecting off the tears in her eyes. I carried that memory with me for years before I understood the emotional power of my own voice."

For 20 years, Judy has volunteered to sing for grief-support events sponsored by Hospice organizations throughout California. This led her to compile songs of healing and comfort into a CD titled "*Candle in the Window*". She and her son, Garrett Philbin, have been featured at the national conventions for *The Compassionate Friends*—an international organization that provides support for families who have lost children—in Portland, Oregon, Minneapolis, and Boston. She was also invited to Dublin, Ireland to perform at one of the largest Hospice Light-Up-A-Light ceremonies in the world.

Judy's most recent CD, "*Keeping it Simple*", is an eclectic blend of jazz standards, popular and originals, executed simply with voice and guitar. This thoughtful collaboration with guitarist, Adam Levine, showcases her articulate and expressive vocals alongside Levine's masterful rhythmic and improvisational talents. Levine has worked with artists on Capitol, Warner Brothers, and Motown Records; his commercial credits include McDonalds, Taco Bell, and TV shows such as *Cheers*, *Simon and Simon*, and *Wings*.

Judy Philbin's music is available at www.JudyPhilbin.com, CDBaby and iTunes.

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