

# Sheila Landis / Rick Matle

## Detroit Music Artists

SHEILA LANDIS is a remarkable singer born in Detroit, Michigan in 1953. Raised in Rochester Hills, Landis graduated in 1971 from Adams High School, excelling in choral music and creative writing. Captivated by the music of Billie Holiday in the 1972 film "Lady Sings the Blues", Landis abruptly changed her career focus from that of an English major at Oakland University to jazz chanteuse. She has been performing her unique amalgam of jazz, Brazilian music and blues since 1973. Landis absorbed the songs of the 1960's British Invasion; fell hard for the beats and catchy choruses of Motown; embraced 1970's funk and sweet soul harmonies of the Stylistics, later grooving to jazz-pop artists like Steely Dan and Sting.

Thus inspired, Landis pursued private lessons in voice, piano, jazz harmony and Latin percussion. With her growing collection of original compositions, Landis formed her own record label, SheLan Records, in 1981. She has since released 25 recordings, garnering attention from labels in Japan, Great Britain, Germany, Austria and France, resulting in several noteworthy collaborative projects and licensing arrangements.

Landis has performed with her 6-piece, drum-driven ensemble Brazilian Love Affair at important Michigan jazz festivals including the Detroit Jazz Festival, the Lansing Jazz Festival and the Concert of Colors, to name a few. She has also appeared at some of the hippest venues in Detroit including Baker's Keyboard Lounge, the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe and Cliff Bell's.

Clearly one of the area's most adventurous singers, Sheila has been chosen "Outstanding Jazz Vocalist" by the Detroit Music Awards on seven separate occasions: 1991, 1994, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2003. The Sheila Landis Trio was recognized by the Detroit Music Awards as "Outstanding Traditional Jazz Group" in 1999. Landis and Matle together took home the Detroit Music Awards "Outstanding Jazz Composer" trophy in 1999.

Sheila's long-time collaborator and ultimate muse is guitarist/producer RICK MATLE. Matle earned his Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance from Oakland University in 1986. Matle's formative studies there included jazz and classical guitar, jazz composing as well as performances on guitar, bass, percussion and African drums. The influence of jazz guitarists such as Joe Pass, Kenny Burrell and Wes Montgomery can be heard in Matle's playing. Matle also cites Pat Metheny, Carlos Santana and Jimi Hendrix as major influences. Rick plays solid bass and chordal accompaniment on the 7-string guitar, providing a lush carpet for Landis's melodic flights.

Whether performing with the intimate Rick Matle/Sheila Landis Duo, Brazilian Love Affair, singing a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald or jamming with the Sheila Landis Trio, Landis's vocal explorations create a musical performance that is one of a kind. Not content to stay within the conventional boundaries of the "jazz singer", Landis has expanded her vocal palette to include bird calls, uncanny imitations of the harmonica, trumpet, flute, electric guitar, synthesizer, string bass and "beat box" drums.

Sheila Landis also combines music and poetry with often surprising results, including an invitation to perform at the 2017 Detroit Jazz Festival with her quartet featuring Matle and avant-garde jazz bassist John Lindberg. Landis earned a grant from The Michigan Council for the Arts/ArtServe Michigan in 1999 for "Music and Metaphor", workshops linking music and poetry. Landis also participated in the National Association of Jazz Educators mentoring program "Sisters in Jazz", which was launched especially to encourage young women to partner with a music professional to mature their jazz talents. Landis also taught at the University of Toledo in Ohio as Applied Vocal Jazz Instructor in 2008 and continues to offer voice lessons for students truly interested in developing a strong and expressive voice.

Sheila Landis and Rick Matle offer four distinct musical programs including: "Brazilian Love Affair", "Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald", "Blues in the Night" and "Music and Metaphor".

Renowned jazz writer Scott Yanow included a nod to Sheila Landis and Rick Matle in his book "The Jazz Singers, the Ultimate Guide" (published 2008 by Backbeat Books) noting that their CD "Riding the Round Pool" (SL1019) "is an excellent

example of her creativity and interplay with Matle". Detroit jazz writer Charles L. Latimer included a full chapter on Landis and Matle in his 2017 book BEHIND THE SWING, A Glimpse Into the Lives of Some of the World's Finest Jazz Musicians, published in 2017.

---

**Booking Contact:**

248-651-9477

[shelandis@gmail.com](mailto:shelandis@gmail.com)

sheilalandis.com