

LEORA CASHE - Bio

She was special right from the start. In fact, on January 2nd, 1960, Leora Cashe was crowned the New Years Baby for Mannville, Alberta, becoming an instant celebrity in this small Canadian farming community. As a young child, the local minister, who happened to be Leora's father, encouraged her to sing in the church choir, where her voice stood out above the rest. Then she sang the lead narration in her kindergarten class production of 'The Flower Shop Window', which received a glowing review from the local paper. It was clear Leora was born to sing.

Leora attended Carcross Community School, an alternative education program, nestled in the Carcross Valley, Yukon Territory. From this truly northern experience it was off to the rugged British Columbia coastal rainforest, where she attended Powell Lake Farm School. It was during this time, while strumming on her guitar, she wrote her first songs.

Leora was drawn to music school in 1979 in a bid to find herself. *"I'll study voice at music school until I figure out what I'm supposed to be doing,"* she reasoned. Leora answered that question when she graduated from Edmonton's Grant MacEwan jazz program, and also when her talents led to performances with The Alley Scatz on CBC radio and TV with Canadian jazz legend Tommy Banks Big Band.

Leora met her longtime husband/collaborator, Jaye Krebs, while performing in Alberta and in 1985 the couple moved with their two beautiful daughters, Adrien and Marli to make Vancouver, British Columbia their home.

After following a close friend's suggestion, Leora began singing with Vancouver's well-known Universal Gospel Choir, where she became a favorite soloist. This popular performer was then asked to join Vancouver's dynamic Circle of Voices/The Gospel Experience.

Under the direction of acclaimed Canadian playwright, Morris Panych, she debuted on the prestigious Stanley stage as the love-starved Miss Ilona Ritter in the Arts Club Jessie Award winning Best Production of 'She Loves Me'. She was cast by Dean Regan in two electrifying productions at Vancouver's Arts Club Review Theatre, 'Black and Gold II' and 'Santa's Got Soul'. In New Westminster, Leora *"brought down the house"* in her role as Miss Stacey in the Royal City Musical Theatre production of 'Anne of Green Gables'. From there, her voice shone in a joint production of the Belfry Theatre in Victoria, BC, and Theatre One in Nanaimo, BC. As the critics tell it, Leora was... *"shaking the audience to it's core"* in the title role of 'A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline'.

In 2001, The West Coast Music Awards nominated her debut CD **'Tears of Joy'** for **Best Gospel Recording** of the year. This collection of ten distinctive original songs takes the listener on a journey that stirs the soul and showcases Leora's magnificent voice. December 2004 marked the release of Leora's second gospel CD, **'Inspiration'**, which received critical acclaim by enthusiastic listeners at home and abroad.

This world class vocalist released her highly anticipated debut jazz recording entitled, **“My Heart Stood Still,”** on June 4th, 2005 at the historic Vancouver East Cultural Centre. The CD features Vancouver’s top-flight jazz musicians; Russ Botten and Miles Foxx-Hill on bass, Tony Foster and Ross Taggart on piano with Craig Scott as well as New York’s Jon Wikan on drums. *‘From originals to classics like Irving Berlin’s “Blue Skies” this is a seriously swinging jazz record from one of Vancouver’s premier vocalists.’*

Another Side Now – The Songs of Joni Mitchell, Leora’s new CD was released on December 1st, 2007. Covering the early years of the Joni Mitchell songbook, *Leora Cashe* and *The Ross Taggart Trio* pay tribute to one of Canada’s icons and best-loved recording artists. The combination of soulful vocal interpretations and accompaniment by jazz trio creates an inspired musical concert where folk, jazz, and gospel combine in a fresh creative statement.

From the Afro-Cuban beat of *‘Carey’* to the gospel tinged *‘Big Yellow Taxi’*, to a jazz waltz through *‘The Gallery’*, the listener is transported into a new experience of these timeless songs. Leora’s ‘rich resounding voice’ embraces the spirit of Joni while introducing us to another unforgettable Canadian vocalist.

Along with her busy schedule of performing she enjoys coaching choirs(directing /arranging), private vocal coaching and leading music classes for children ages 6 months to 3 years as a Gymboree and Kinder music instructor.

The rich texture of Leora’s voice conveys the deep respect for the power of music and the words that make the song. This gifted performer has an ‘electrifying voice’ that ‘sends chills down audience members’ spines’ and ‘can’t help but bless any open hearted listener.’ Just like the child’s voice so many years earlier, jazz and gospel vocalist Leora Cashe stands out!

QUOTES

“I sat in the audience and I was knocked out!”

Patrick Montgomery, Executive Director Evergreen Cultural Centre, Coquitlam, BC

“...Vancouver’s Leora Cashe is one stunning, powerhouse singer whatever the song.”

“...one of Vancouver’s premier jazz vocalists.”

John P. McLaughlin, The Vancouver Province, BC

“Her performance was breathtaking. Leora easily engaged the audience and held them spellbound for the duration of the show.”

Christopher Bate, General Manager, Tidemark Theatre Campbell River, BC

“...she has a gorgeous voice, and she uses it well...and great taste in sidemen.”

Paul Grant Host, CBC Radio, Arts Report, Vancouver, BC

“...blessed with a rich resounding voice.”

Marke Andrews, Vancouver Sun, BC

“...the woman has soul.”

David Spanner, The Vancouver Province, BC

“...jazz and gospel singer Leora Cashe is definitely genuine!...Cashe has the pipes to deliver the goods.”

Fiona Hughes, The Vancouver Courier, BC

“A magnificent vocal talentfresh passionate and unique.”

“Simply put, Cashe is one of Canada’s finest singers.”

David Daves, BC Christian News, Langley, BC

“...this voice is gonna make you wanna sing”

Rick Cluff Host, CBC Radio One, the Early Edition, Vancouver, BC

“...Cashe sends chills down audience members’ spines.”

“...the passion, the vocal flexibility, and the pure rich tones are there loud and clear.”

Diane Dakers, Times Colonist, Victoria, BC

“Her showmanship is excellent and audiences adore her.”

Roy Surette, Artistic Director, Belfry Theatre, Victoria, BC

“The shows biggest crowd pleaser...”

Tom Zillich, Westender, Vancouver, BC

PERFORMANCE CREDITS

Concerts and Festivals

Courtney Music Festival	Courtney, BC
Yukon Arts Centre	Whitehorse, YT
Harrison Music Festival	Harrison Hot Springs, BC
Knox United Church Music Series	Parksville, BC
Basil Street Jazz Festival	Vancouver, BC
Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival	Winthrop, WA
Vancouver International Jazz Festival	Vancouver, BC
Mission Folk Music Festival	Mission BC
Tommy Banks Show CBC TV	Edmonton, AB
Quesnel Live Arts	Quesnel, BC
Hope Jazz and Blues Festival	Hope, BC
Port Co. Coffee Concert Series	Port Coquitlam, BC
Harmony Arts Festival	West Vancouver, BC
4 For Forty Series, Tidemark Theatre	Campbell River, BC
Vancouver Symphony, 'Cool Yule 2005'	Vancouver, BC
Evergreen Cultural Centre	Coquitlam, BC
Williams Lake Arts Council	Williams Lake, BC

Venues

Rossini's Kits Beach	1525 Yew Street, Van, BC
Monk McQueens Fresh Seafood/Oyster Bar	601 Stamps Landing, Van. BC
O'Doul's Restaurant and Bar	1300 Robson Street, Van. BC
Jazz Vespers, St. Andrews Wesley	1012 Nelson, Van. BC
Rossini's Gastown/Kitsilano	162 Water Street, Van. BC
Pan Pacific, Cascades Lounge	300-999 Canada Place, Van. BC
Carnegies Bar and Grill	1619 West Broadway, Van. BC
Wedgewood Hotel, Bacchus Lounge	845 Hornby Street, Van. BC
Washington Avenue Grill	Marine Drive, White Rock, BC

Theatre

	Role	Director
"She Loves Me"	Ilona Ritter	Principal <i>Morris Panych</i> / Arts Club Theatre
"Anne of Green Gables"	Miss Stacey	Principal <i>Tom Kerr</i> /RC Musical Theatre
"Closer Walk With Patsy Cline Patsy Cline"	Patsy Cline	Lead Role <i>Dean Regan</i> /Belfry Theatre
"Black & Gold 2"	Ensemble	Principal <i>Dean Regan</i> / Arts Club Theatre
"Santa's Got Soul"	Ensemble	Principal Arts Club Theatre
"Xmas Presence"	Vocalist	Principal <i>Ron Reed</i> / Pacific Theatre

Fund Raiser Events

Starry Night Shooting Stars	Stanley Theatre, Van., BC
Motown Meltdown Shooting Stars	Commodore, Vancouver, BC
Blues for Xmas	The Yale, Vancouver, BC
CBC Food Bank Drive	CBC Radio One, Vancouver, BC
BC Children's Hospital	Chan Family Health Theatre

TV, Commercials, Film

'Craftsman Collision'	Eve	Jim Colbert Creations
'Home for the Holidays'	Vocalist	Dexter Productions
'London Drugs'	Vocalist	Teddy Bear Productions
'Early Edition'	Guest	CBC Radio One
'Holiday Heart'	Actor	Robert Townsend/Tribeca Films

Awards

West Coast Music Award Nomination	2001 Best Gospel Recording	"Tears of Joy"
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