



# NORA McCARTHY

**Jazz Voice, Composer,  
Lyricist, Poet, Actor,  
Educator, Author**

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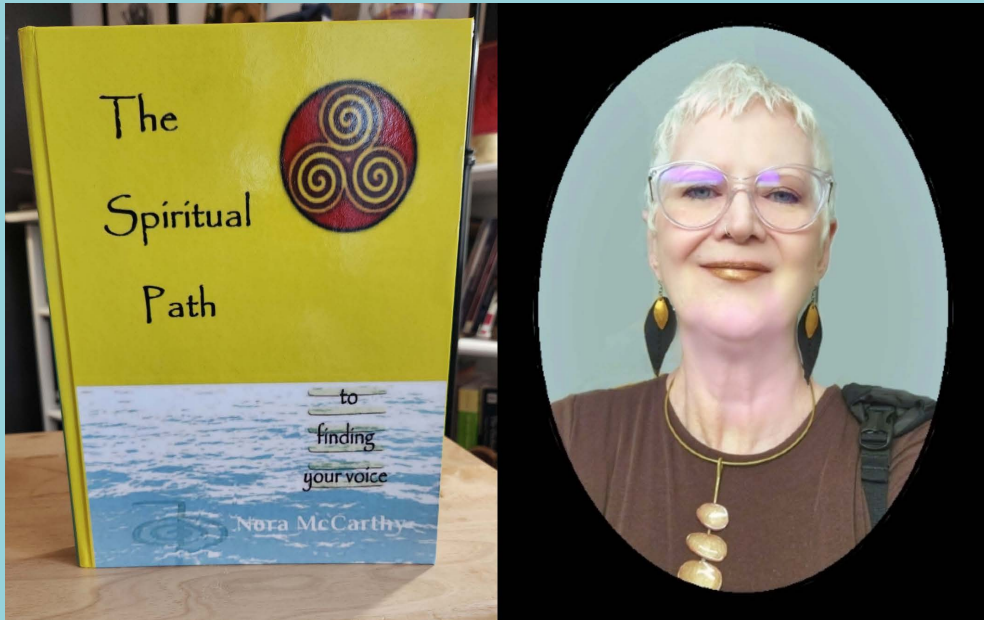
**A Sound Reminiscent of the Great Voices and Horns In Jazz**

# Nora McCarthy Bio

## *"What They Are Saying"*



- A prominent member of the New York jazz scene, Nora McCarthy is a highly original and accomplished singer, composer, improviser, and poet. With a sound reminiscent of the great voices and horns in jazz, her burnished alto voice is steeped in the classic jazz and rhythm & blues tradition and is rich with a distinctive style that draws on both the spirituality of post-bop instrumentalists and the spirituality of post-bop vocal jazz. A beautiful balladeer, she has often been compared to the great Jimmy Scott. (*All About Jazz*)
- McCarthy has demonstrated that she is comfortable with both the inside and the outside of musical expression, and whether she gets into free form, abstract improvisations, or is performing standards, she is as expressive as she is unpredictable. Her adept and adventurous improvising is on a high level; a musical colorist eager to push the envelope. Nora's ever increasing need to expand her own musical consciousness and convey a spiritual awareness through the music is her creative motivation and inspiration. (*Alex Henderson, Journalist, New York City Jazz Record, CD Review*)
- McCarthy performs in every setting from a voice and saxophone duo to a twenty-piece orchestra. Her original compositions and arrangements are stunning works of art and include graphic compositions, soundscapes, and poetic architectures. (*Ramsey Ameen, Violinist with Cecil Taylor Unit, A Gathering of the Tribes Magazine.*)
- Her recorded body of work and performances have garnered high acclaim and outstanding reviews in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world. Nora's discography thus far includes eleven CDs, seven as a leader.



[https://www.amazon.com/author/red\\_zen\\_pub](https://www.amazon.com/author/red_zen_pub)

- McCarthy and her groups have performed at the top jazz venues, concert halls, galleries, theaters, performance spaces, universities, and music cafes, throughout New York City, the Tri-State area as well as in Austria, Panama and Podgorica, Montenegro.
- Released in the summer of 2024, *The Spiritual Path to Finding Your Voice*™ is the distillation of a singer's lifelong journey of musical discovery, creative exploration, spirituality, and the process of vocal and professional development.
- A devotee of classic jazz, global rhythms and the fine arts, the concepts found in her book tap into her several decades long experience as a highly renowned creative jazz vocalist.
- The book is dedicated to those vocal artists who stay true to the art of singing, encouraging them to embrace their unique voices and creativity.

A unique and dynamic vocal artist in the world of jazz and creative music today.

## Click: [People of Peace Quintet](#)

Video



Produced by Nora McCarthy and recorded at Tedesco Studio in Paramus, New Jersey, *blesSINGS* is a modern jazz record that combines several elements to make its powerfully beautiful statement: original compositions and lyrics, poetry, improvisation, and imaginative arrangements.

*blesSINGS*, addresses the overwhelming need for compassion, environmental awareness and understanding in our world today; it is first and foremost a love story that urges us to love one another and ourselves, to be the best we can be, to open our minds and hearts and acknowledge our blessings. It is about peace through harmony, liberation through creative expression, reaching for our higher selves and expanding our consciousness, recognizing and holding steadfast our connection to one another, to the earth, and to our place within the universe. It pays homage to the subtle energies that influence creativity, and ultimately give birth to hope and renewal.

"... There are a number of gifted Jazz singers on this planet, but few truly sing from the soul, as Ms. Nora McCarthy! Talk about conviction! Talk about a beautiful, original vocal instrument! Talk about fire in the belly, but a gentility of subtle nuance. This defines Nora. She's not afraid to take a risk, explore human emotions that are real and not contrived." *Steve Getz, Music Director/Talent Buyer and record producer, son of legendary tenor saxophonist, Stan Getz.*

*blesSINGS* is a modern jazz record that weaves together several elements to create its powerfully beautiful statement:

- ❖ Original Compositions and Lyrics: Nora McCarthy's heartfelt compositions and poetic lyrics infuse the album with depth and emotion.
- ❖ Improvisation: Jazz thrives on spontaneity, and Nora's music embraces improvisation, allowing each note to breathe and evolve.
- ❖ Imaginative Arrangements: Collaborating with Jorge Sylvester, Nora crafts imaginative arrangements that enhance the sonic landscape.

Here's a glimpse into the tracklist:

1. Love Poem for the People
2. Akara Moi Moi
3. Nimbus
4. Into the Middle of Something
5. Restless Mind
6. The Blessing
7. Passion Dance
8. Listen Close to What the Trees Are Saying
9. Night on Earth
10. Nowhere Ever After

Nora McCarthy's vocal artistry shines through each note, inviting listeners into a world of musical exploration. Whether you're a seasoned jazz enthusiast or a curious newcomer, *blesSINGS* promises an enriching experience.

**!Nora McCarthy - *blesSINGS***



[Listen to \*blesSINGS\*](#)



**Nora McCarthy - Voice, Compositions, Lyrics**  
**Jorge Sylvester - Alto Saxophone, Compositions**  
**Pablo Vergara - Piano**  
**Donald Nicks - Bass**  
**Kenny Grohowski - Drums**

The outstanding skill of this tightly knit group cannot be overstated. These highly seasoned and innovative musicians, all of whom are unique and highly expressive improvisers, bring with them a plethora of musical ideas that draw from a global perspective and a variety of musical influences all rooted in the Jazz tradition. Their music is an uplifting, inspiring, joyous and magical mix of select jazz instrumental classics refashioned into vocal masterpieces, music from living modern jazz composers and McCarthy's original compositions and lyrics, each one a universe unto itself joined together by a common thread - LOVE.

Highlights include: Ornette Coleman's "The Blessing," McCoy Tyner's "Passion Dance," McCarthy's originals: "Love Song For the People," "Into the Middle of Something" and, "Nowhere Ever After" - dedicated McCarthy's friend and mentor, the late great Master Conductor Lawrence D. "Butch" Morris.

## JAZZ STANDARDS & ORIGINALS

Duo, Trio, Quartet, Quintet, Sextet and Septet

1. I GOT IT BAD AND THAT AIN'T GOOD (Live)
2. I LIKE YOU YOU'RE NICE
3. A TIME FOR LOVE (Live)
4. BROKEN KISS-VELAS-WAITING FOR YOU (Live)
5. THE SHADOW OF YOUR SMILE
6. LITTLE RED ROOSTER
7. BEWITCHED, BOTHERED and BEWILDERED (Live)
8. INTO THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING (Original)
9. DOODLIN' (Live)
10. FRIEND IN NEED
11. AKARA MOI MOI
12. RESTLESS MIND (Original)
13. PASSION DANCE
14. TO BE WITH YOU

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[www.noramccarthy.com](http://www.noramccarthy.com) and [www.mic-art-music.com](http://www.mic-art-music.com)

# Nora McCarthy Discography

<https://micartproductions.bandcamp.com/>

- **Mayhem At Large ~ The Last Baha'i – Jorge Sylvester Spontaneous Expressions**
- **Manna For Thought – Manna For Thought Trio/Nora McCarthy, Dom Minasi, Ras Moshe**
- **blesSINGS - The People of Peace Quintet**
- **A Time For Love –Lyrical Duosity, Nora McCarthy and Joshua Wolff**
- **Spirit Driven – Jorge Sylvester ACE Collective**
- **2010 – The Gunter Hampel New York/European Sextet**
- **In The Language Of Dreams – A Small Dream In Red – Innovative Voice and Saxophone Duo**
- **Toward A Hill of Joy, George Brandon's Blue Unity Ensemble (Blue Unity Records)**
- **Circle Completing, Nora McCarthy and John DiMartino Duo**
- **A Small Dream In Red - A Small Dream In Red – Innovative Voice and Saxophone Duo**
- **red&blue – The Nora McCarthy Qu'ART'et**