

Cindy Scott was recently written up by jazz historian and critic **SCOTT YANOW** in his book, *The Jazz Singers: The Ultimate Guide*. Yanow says of Cindy, “she gives standards her own spin and warmth.”



Cindy Scott

Cindy Scott has one impressive CD out and is currently part of the jazz scene in New Orleans.

She sang in her church choir while growing up, taking the part of first soprano. Scott started on flute at the age of 11, attending LSU on a flute scholarship (1984–88), primarily playing classical music. “My junior year, I went to Germany and studied at Tuebingen University. That’s where I started singing jazz, in the jazz cellars of the Black Forest. For the next two years, I went to the University of South Carolina and got my Master’s in International Business in 1990. While there, I got to sing with the USC Left Bank Big Band and the Progressive Jazz and Fusion Ensemble.”

Although she had some gigs after college, Cindy Scott worked in the corporate world for 10 years, living in Houston and only singing occasionally on the side. “In the summer of 2001, I was at a vocal jazz workshop at the University of North Texas, and that whole week I was so anxious and restless and emotional. I felt like I was coming out of my skin. One day, late in the week, it was like I was hit by lightning. I just had to do this. I had to commit myself to being the best musician I could, and that meant figuring out a way to do it full time. I called my husband that very minute, crying, and told him my decision. He said, ‘Cindy, I’ve been trying to tell you that for 10 years.’”

In 2002 Cindy Scott recorded her first CD, *Major To Minor*. In 2003 she and her husband appeared on the reality TV home remodeling show, *House Rules*. “After 100 days of hard labor, Bill and I won the house we remodeled on the show. This allowed me to leave my day job permanently and focus on music.” She and her husband moved to South Louisiana so she could accept a full graduate assistantship in Jazz Studies at the University of New Orleans. Although they lost their apartment during Hurricane Katrina, they eventually returned to New Orleans, and Cindy Scott has become an important force in the local scene, both as a teacher and as a singer.

“I love having the freedom to make the music my own. It is not just freedom to personalize this music, it’s a requirement. If you don’t do that, it’s not jazz.”

Recommended CD: Cindy Scott’s one CD, *Major To Minor* (Catahoula 783 707 626 420), is a strong effort, as she gives standards her own spin and warmth.

Website: www.cindyscott.us

This remarkable, encyclopedic guide consists of more than 500 profiles that together span the history of jazz, from the dawn of commercial recordings to the present day. All the major jazz singers are here, from Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday to Cassandra Wilson and Diana Krall, from Jelly Roll Morton to Frank Sinatra, Louis Armstrong, and more.