

# LILI ANEL



For years Lili Añel has moved audiences with her songs, both of hope for the future, and standing in her truth of life's difficulties and conjuring the strength for perseverance. All delivered with her voice, full of low reaches which one feels in their center or a falsetto that is vulnerable and sweet. Of her songs she says "they are snapshots of life and situations I've observed or have experienced, even if not to the letter. I may embellish or change an ending or just make the whole thing up."

Añel considers music a calling. She was born and raised in New York City and it was there that she discovered her passion for music. As a child Lili remembers, singing along to her mother's Cuban, jazz and pop standard albums. It was also her mother who supported Lili's desire to join the church choir. However, it was her grandfather's recognition of how much joy singing brought to her being, which served to set her feet firmly on the path of a career in music. "My grandfather was very influential and instrumental," says Lili. "When I sang in the church choir, he would sneak in to the Mass without telling me. I would ask him later, after letting him know that I saw him in the back, why he came to church at all and then left before it was over. His response was: "to hear you sing. I can hear your voice above the others."

Defying categorization she calls her music a hybrid of "jazz/folk/soul/pop" combined with a powerfully unique vocal style bringing her to the forefront. Lili continues to win over audiences with her vocal stylings, guitar playing and songs, that while often recalling her many influences (Joni Mitchell, Steely Dan, Janis Ian, Joan Armatrading) prove her own unique style. With reference to this Lili says "I am a sum of many parts ethnically and my music reflects this. I have many influences, but I am totally me. When I am asked "what kind of music do you play? my response is always "I play Lili music". She studied voice and performance at *City College's Leonard Davis Center of Performing Arts* and would later attend classes at Eddie Simon's *Guitar Study Center*. Only able to afford one class, she would audit as many other classes as possible each semester, eventually gaining the respect of her instructors who admired her rigor, allowing her to participate in class like the students who were fully enrolled. She began attending open mic nights which led to her putting a band together and building a following, leading to the creation of her first record in 1994 "**Laughed Last**" on Palmetto Records which was supported by a U.S. tour. "**Hi-Octane Coffee**" (2001), which has more of a rock edge, followed.

In 2004 Lili continued her musical journey relocating to the thriving music scene in Philadelphia. A 2006 reissue of "**Laughed Last**" was released with new artwork and 2 live bonus tracks captured from her live performances at Philadelphia's legendary *Tin Angel*. The 2007 "**Dream Again**" album caught the attention of *JazzTimes Magazine* in which they wrote: "her songs are consistently excellent..." Lili's next release "**Every Second In Between**" (2009) was well received and once again *JazzTimes Magazine* proclaimed "...a CD to blow your mind at first listen..." The album was produced by award-winning producer Glenn Barratt and made the All About Jazz 2009 Year End Writers Choice for the "*10 Best New Jazz Releases*" list, along with winning Three **2010 NY Music Awards** for Best Singer-Songwriter, Best Jazz Album and Best Female Jazz Vocalist. On her 2013 release, "**I Can See Bliss From Here**", we find Lili writing of her struggle with various losses (including her hair loss to Alopecia), always in complete honesty and total feeling, along with her celebrating her life, on the biographical "*Something To Do*."

Lili's 2017 EP "**Another Place, Another Time**" brought her continued accolades, with an invitation to record 4 songs on **NPR Music Live Sessions** video series. In 2018 Lili was recognized for her accomplishments with a nomination for the prestigious **PEW Center for Arts and Heritage Fellowship**.

While receiving airplay from radio stations across the country, Lili has been embraced by Philadelphia station WRTI 90.1 FM that has offered her tremendous support and has included her, most recently in their series “**NPR Live Sessions From Home**” which featured artist produced video performances created during the COVID Pandemic. “I am so happy and excited to have the support of WRTI. They are a huge part of the music that encompasses what Philadelphia is about. Living here I feel very much a part of this city and what it is musically”, says Añel.

“**Better Days (remastered)**” was released October 2021, and is a re-imagining of Lili's October 2019 album “**Better Days**” which lost momentum during the COVID Pandemic. This time Lili's co-producer Dale Melton, who recorded, mixed and mastered the album was able to revisit it with fresh ears and make improvements with the addition of two more tracks and new artwork. One of the special bonus tracks is a live version of “Got Me Thinking” recorded at NPR station WRTI. This stunning live track has never been publicly heard until now. The other bonus track “Climb The Wall” is one of Lili's most compelling songs from her 2013 album “**I Can See Bliss From Here**”. In its remastered form the song sits perfectly with “**Better Days (remastered)**”. This captivating album was embraced by fans and critics alike.

Lili's 2007 song “Dream Again” has taken on a new life by being featured in the 2022 award-winning independent film, “**The Center of Distance**” by Rock Wilk. Lili also co-wrote the song “*Lovers Leap*” for the upcoming play “**Folk City: The Musical.**”

In addition to being a headliner, Añel has supported Madeleine Peyroux, Alejandro Escovedo, B.B. King, Cassandra Wilson, Michael Franks, Rodrigo Amarante, Boz Scaggs, Raul Malo, Richie Havens, Robert Cray, The Holmes Brothers and Raul Midon to name a few. Lili Añel continues to be a singer/songwriter at the top of her game and recognized as a recording artist who successfully connects with the world.

Attend one of Lili Añel's shows and witness how she commands the stage with her charisma, storytelling and rapport with the audience. It will lift your spirits and leave you with a very memorable night of satisfying music!

#### **For Additional Information**

Contact: [info@lilianel.org](mailto:info@lilianel.org)

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#### **Links:**

NPR Live Sessions from Home - <https://livesessions.npr.org/videos/lili-anel-climb-the-wall>

NPR Live Sessions: <https://livesessions.npr.org/artists/lili-anel>

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