

AMANDA EKERY

www.amandaekery.com | www.thelomaxfolkproject.com | aekerymusic@gmail.com

Jazz vocalist, pianist and flutist, Amanda Ekery plays a distinctive combination of traditional, contemporary and original music. The native Texan's compositions and arrangements range from greasy blues to introspective ballads. Amanda has performed in a variety of venues including the Kennedy Center; Washington Women in Jazz Festival; Blue Room in Kansas City; Portland Jazz Festival; Denton Arts & Jazz Festival; Maiori, Italy; and the Blue Note in Amsterdam. Her music contains varied influences from Carmen McRae, Led Zeppelin, Sara Serpa, Bill Evans, and Frank Zappa.

As an award-winning composer and vocalist, Amanda was selected for the 2015 Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Residency, an international competition for young jazz composers and performers. Nationally recognized as an outstanding jazz soloist (2011), Amanda earned the Mark of Excellence National Jazz Honors Outstanding Soloist Award. She also participated and performed her original work at the inaugural Amalfi Coast Music Festival Jazz Division with Sunny Wilkinson and Ellen Rowe in 2014, as well as the Keep an Eye Jazz Residency in Amsterdam where she worked with artists such as Becca Stevens and Avishai Cohen. Amanda was also honored with the Robert Cox Memorial Award at University of North Texas (UNT) for Outstanding Honors Student in the Arts and Humanities (2016).

Amanda grew up listening to classic rock in her Dad's garage, Motown at her grandma's house and the Beatles in her Mom's car. She has always enjoyed a diverse range of music and incorporates a variety of styles in her performances. She has performed pop, rock, jazz, opera and even mariachi music with the Lomax Folk Project, El Paso Opera Company, the El Paso Youth Jazz Ensemble, Eclectic Jazz Group, UNT Jazz Singers, Afro-Cuban and Brazilian Ensembles, Naked Lunch - Steely Dan Tribute Band and the NEC's Contemporary Rock Ensemble.

Earning a bachelor's degree in Jazz Studies with a minor in Music Theory from the University of North Texas, Amanda graduated with honors and Magna Cum Laude. While at UNT, Amanda studied voice with Rosana Eckert, classical piano with Liudmila Georgievskaya and arranging with Richard DeRosa. She is currently pursuing a master's degree at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, where she studies with Ran Blake and Dominique Eade.

Amanda loves premiering new works that challenge and expand her arranging, composing and vocal skills. Most recently, she has released "Some Short Songs" an album of original music exploring the Lydian Chromatic Concept. Upcoming projects include the Lomax Folk Project albums release for which Amanda is the arranger, musical director and performer, and *Crayon Box*, an interactive performance composed, created and curated by Amanda.