

Vocalist **NICOLE PASTERNAK** operates below the radar, carving an ever-growing niche with jazz enthusiasts in the Northeastern U.S. JazzTimes' critic Chuck Berg once described her as "reminiscent of a young Ella..." Her repertoire embraces the powerful traditions of Swing songs, bebop, Brazilian, ballads and the Big Band Era. She is also a gifted songwriter and lyricist.



The Norwalk Hour said she has "an almost uncanny ability to reach out and pull listeners into the music and make them want to stay there." A strong improviser, she is appreciated for her sense of lyric delivery, phrasing and rhythm — and for the musician-like ways she infuses her sound within the ensemble, be it big band or duo.

Influenced by singers like Rosemary Clooney, Ella Fitzgerald, Anita O'Day and Billie Holiday, she favors the Great American songs, often served up with Brazilian and Latin rhythms, and punctuated by the inclusion of her original songs. Through her husband, master tenor saxophonist Ralph Lalama, she pursues the bebop lexicon as well; their appearances together are effectively spiced with arrangements for sax and voice.

Ms. Pasternak maintains a steady, demanding schedule in the Connecticut and New York area, especially with her duo partner, guitarist Carmine Marino. This duo has established a solid, growing fan base with their dynamic yet intimate energy. *Pulse* magazine described them as having, "A sound too good not to notice...a strong team that can captivate any audience..." She is featured with a number of jazz orchestras and combos including the Harold Zinno Quintet, with whom she is popular at Connecticut's famed Silvermine Tavern. Alongside saxophonist Bill Cofrances she works in fund-raising concerts for health charities; she has been a favorite at NYC's Birdland with Lew Anderson's All American Big Band.



Through the years the mother of two has focused her talents on a number of projects for children. In addition to in-school performances, she has collaborated on recordings released in Korea to promote English language education for children. As a volunteer with the "Songs of Love" organization she co-created personalized songs for terminally ill children.

Her inspired song, "The Baby Is Here," was selected in 1997 as the theme for the Adoptive Parents Committee of Long Island, NY. She also performs for New York City school children with the Women in Jazz program.

Recordings include "Winter Samba" (1987), an album of original work and "Nicole/The Song Is You" (1989), a CD for Cexton Records. She performs all vocals on a recording by Charles Haynes, "Paris/Rio Express" (1996) that demonstrates her range from improviser to chanteuse and debuts her own lyrics to Django Reinhardt's "Nuages." Her self-produced CD, "Don't Go, Don't Leave, Please Stay" (1998) teams her up with the Alan Simon Trio and Ralph Lalama (of the [Village] Vanguard Jazz Orchestra and Joe Lovano Nonet).

In early 2006 she released her latest CD, "In A Word," with Ralph Lalama, Don Friedman & Dennis Irwin, on the Garagista Music label. It highlights a collection of one-word song titles. *New York Times* contributing writer Thomas Staudter described it, "An enchanting voice backed by a highly personable trio."

Nicole Pasternak continues to write and record her new material while she promotes herself through concert, radio and nightclub appearances. She can be found on the Internet at [www.nicolepasternak.com](http://www.nicolepasternak.com) or via her record label, [www.garagistamusic.com](http://www.garagistamusic.com)



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