

# LILI AÑEL

Lili Añel (pronounced Ahn-Yell) considers music a calling. She discovered her passion for music growing up in New York City. As Añel remembers, singing along to her mother's Cuban, jazz and standard albums. It was also her mother who supported Lili's join the church choir. However, it was her grandfather's recognition of how much joy singing brought to her being, which 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. In 2018 Lili was a nominee for a PEW Center for Arts and Heritage Fellowship. The end of 2018, found Lili signing with independent Philadelphia label "**Winding Way Records**" who released a "best of" compilation entitled "**In Spirit.**" Her latest album "**Better Days,**" (Winding Way Records) was released October 4, 2019. "**Better Days**" has been welcomed by radio stations in major U.S. cities and also abroad. Lili and her band will be touring in support of this recording in 2020.

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.

On her 2013 release, "**I Can See Bliss From Here,**" we find Lili standing in her truth. She wrote of her struggle with various losses, always in complete honesty and total feeling, along with her celebrating her life, on the biographical "Something To Do." JazzTimes Magazine proclaimed "**Every Second In Between**" (2009) "...a cd to blow your mind at first listen..." "**Every Second In Between**" (produced by Glenn Barratt) also made the All About Jazz 2009 Year End Writers Choice for the "10 Best New Jazz Releases" list, along with winning 3 NY Music Awards 2010, Best Singer-Songwriter, Best Jazz Album and Best Female Jazz Vocalist. *JazzTimes Magazine* said of "**Dream Again**" (2007) "...her songs are consistently excellent..." Palmetto Records released her first CD "**Laughed Last**" (1994) which was supported by a U.S. tour. "**Hi-Octane Coffee**" (2001) followed.

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. She has supported Cassandra Wilson, Alejandro Escovedo, Madeleine Peyroux, The Holmes Brothers, Boz Scaggs, B.B. King, Raul Midon, Robert Cray 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.

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### **What The Critics Are Saying...**

*“Better Days...the best song on Lili Añel’s new album...what you get on [this] release, is pure, pure feeling over pristine chops on nine heartfelt tracks...her voice rapturous and confessional...”*

– **Carol Banks Weber/Festival Peak-Medium**

*“...sings with soul and vulnerability while also playing a richly textured guitar...all of the tunes, are intimate and vulnerable, with her vocal flexibility bringing you into her biographical lyrics...she wears her heart on her sleeve, bringing you into the deep recesses of her soul. Not easy in this day of feelings with no emotions”*

– **Jazz Weekly-George W. Harris**

*“She tells riveting stories in a knowing voice, taking great chances with notes and phrases”*

– **Ken Franckling/Jazz Notes**

*“...one of Philadelphia's premier singer-songwriters...her vocals throughout are nothing short of melodically—and, more importantly, emotionally—stunning... she writes clever, compelling songs that her soulful voice—sometimes brooding, sometimes beaming—renders with emotional power and grace”*

– **Chris Slawecki/AllAboutJazz**

*“A uniquely gifted artist that is raw, ethereal and incredibly real. Lili sounds like no one but herself, a rare gift in an industry of clones”*

– **Brent Black / Not Just Jazz**

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