

Monika Ryan

Monika Ryan carries the lineage of Jazz directly: a New York City–born and –raised jazz vocalist, composer, and producer who has written and released original jazz on her own label, Resensitize Records, for over twenty-five years. A graduate of The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, class of 1997, she studied privately with the late Jackie Paris — a favorite singer of Charles Mingus, who wrote and recorded "Paris in Blue" for him, and an artist Ella Fitzgerald repeatedly praised as one of her favorites — and took classes with the late Sheila Jordan, NEA Jazz Master (2012), who stayed in touch over the years and once called personally to congratulate her on creating an impressive recording ("Windmills," 2017), and who called her "a wonderful singer whose music will help keep the flame of jazz alive."

Her work has been reviewed in DownBeat, the LA Times, Jazz Journal, JAZZIZ, and All About Jazz, and she has performed at the Montreal International Jazz Festival, Carnegie Hall's Neighborhood Concert Series, and venues across Japan, Ireland, Germany, and Hong Kong — proof that her music travels and connects internationally. Her most recent works continue her focus on original songs and have also found an audience well beyond the U.S., earning airplay, playlist placements, and press attention from outlets and curators in Italy, Germany, Chile, Brazil, France, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, South Africa, the UK, the Netherlands, and more.

She has a forthcoming recording with NEA Jazz Master Ron Carter and Latin Grammy–winning Brazilian guitar legend Toninho Horta of her original song "Nothing Like A Bass," out September 25, 2026. Her 2023 album *Playfully* was a meditation on "playing-fully" — on being fully present in life — expressed through ebullient, joyful, and indeed playful jazz, and her 2026 release *Delightfully* continues that same spirit. Her audience spans generations evenly, drawn by lyrics that are modern, clever, and quietly wise — lyrics that feel both traditional and completely fresh at the same time. It's music that rewards those looking for depth, but asks nothing of listeners who just want something beautiful and light. It breathes new life into the genre while standing firmly rooted in its tradition.

Monika is fun, thoughtful, and sincere, both as a person and as an artist, and it shows in her guiding philosophy: "Art is service, and music is medicine." She serves that medicine in music that soothes as much as it excites. That idea of play as a way of being fully alive is not just a lyrical theme for her; it is the philosophical and emotional core of her music.