

April Varner MEDIUM Bio

NYC-based jazz vocalist with the curly red hair from Toledo, Ohio, April Varner is a name you won't soon forget. A young April at age five confidently told her parents, "I am music". This enthusiastic proclamation reflected April's deep passion for music, especially vocal performance. Inspired by none other than the Disney Princess movies, April's journey toward growing as a musician began.

She began her studies as a classical vocalist at the University of Toledo at age 8 and studied piano from her grandmother at age 6. No stranger to the stage, April began performing and competing at age 5, displaying vocal, musical theatre, drama, and piano talents at the local, regional, national and international levels. From making her Carnegie Hall debut in Weill Hall at age 16 following a first-place award by the American Protégé International Vocal Competition, being a two-time All-National Honors Ensemble member, to sharing the stage with world actors at the Edinburgh, Scotland Arts Fringe Festival, April's love of all genres of music continued to grow.

April underwent a musical transition into jazz and discovered a deep passion for it following her freshman year. In May of 2020, she completed her undergraduate degree in Jazz Studies-Voice at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music.

At the age of 26, April has already performed/studied with a multitude of legendary artists and jazz luminaries such as Sachal Vasandani, Jane Monheit, Darmon Meader, Tierney Sutton, Peter Eldridge, Walter Smith III, Kurt Elling, Kate McGarry, and Michael Feinstein. Countless appearances at many of the city's top jazz spots have followed, including The Django, 55 Bar, Dizzy's Coca-Cola Club, Ornithology Jazz Club, Birdland Theater, Minton's Playhouse and more. She will be making her Birdland Jazz Club and Mezzrow Jazz Club debut in Spring of 2024.

April graduated in May of 2022 with her Master's degree in Jazz Voice Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. She most recently was awarded the 2023 Winner of the International Ella Fitzgerald Jazz Vocal Competition. She is excitedly awaiting the release of her debut full-length album, entitled "Dear April", on June 28th, 2024. It was produced by Grammy-Award winning drummer, producer and educator, Ulysses Owens Jr. The personnel of the album include Russell Malone, Benny Benack III, Dayna Stephens, Theo Bleckmann, Reuben Rogers, Miguel Russell and Caelan Cardello.