

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 Darmon Meader, Sachal Vasandani, Jane Monheit, Tierney Sutton, Peter Eldridge, Walter Smith III, Kurt Elling, Sunny Wilkinson, Kate McGarry, Michael Feinstein, Benny Benack III, Dayna Stephens, Russell Malone, Theo Bleckmann, Ted Rosenthal, Elio Villafranca, Jean Baylor, Rogerio Boccato and Damien Sneed.

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. and will be released under Cellar Live Record Label and La Reserve. The personnel of the album include Caelan Cardello (piano), Reuben Rogers (bass), Russell Malone (guitar), Miguel Russell (drums), Dayna Stephens (saxophone), Benny Benack III (vocals and trumpet) and Theo Bleckmann (vocals). April will also be making her debut at the world-renowned Birdland Jazz Club on April 21st, 2024 as well as Mezzrow Jazz Club on April 28th, 2024.