

## **April Varner MEDIUM Bio**

Born and raised in Toledo, Ohio, a young April Varner 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.

April 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.

Influenced by musical artists such as Ella Fitzgerald, Carmen McRae, Eva Cassidy, and Esperanza Spalding, April has a passion for an array of genres ranging from The Great American Songbook, Broadway classics, folk, R&B, Funk, Brazilian jazz and sacred music. After undergoing a musical transition into Jazz and discovering a deep passion for it following her freshman year. In May 2020, she completed her undergraduate degree in Jazz Studies-Voice at Indiana University’s Jacobs School of Music.

At the young age of 25, April has performed/studied with an array of renowned artists such as Darmon Meader, Sachal Vasandani, Tierney Sutton, Walter Smith III, Dave Stryker, John Raymond, Kurt Elling, Sunny Wilkinson, Kate McGarry, Jeremy Fox, Sylvia McNair, Michael Feinstein, Benny Benack III, Theo Bleckmann, Ted Rosenthal, Jean Baylor, Rogerio Boccato and Damien Sneed. April currently resides in New York City, where she is actively arranging, composing, and sitting in/performing at various jazz clubs around Manhattan. This has included Mezzrow, the Django, 55 Bar, Dizzy’s Coca-Coca Club and more. She is excited to be making her Birdland Theater debut in late September. Most recently, April graduated in May of 2022 with her Master’s degree in Jazz Voice from the Manhattan School of Music. She also just released her debut EP, entitled “Hummingbird”, available on all streaming services.