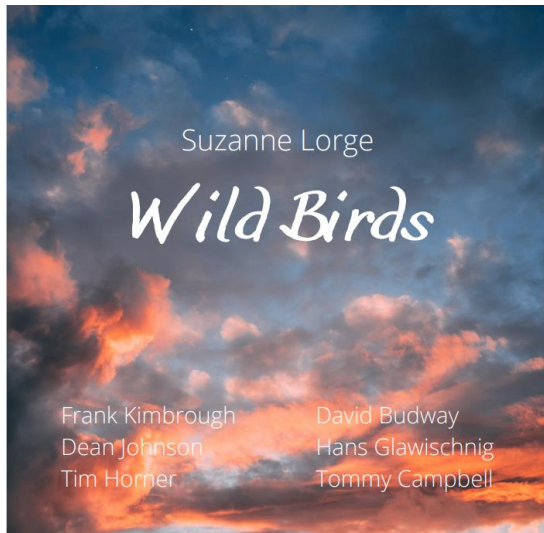


## TWO PREMIER TRIOS BACK JAZZ SINGER SUZANNE LORGE ON DIGITAL RE-RELEASE OF *WILD BIRDS*



*"...a light, horn-like tone...strong scat chops..."*  
—NYC Jazz Record

*"[Her] singing possesses a kinetic swing that is incompletely harnessed, and that is a good thing. Hear 'Better Than Anything'."*—All About Jazz

*"...like a bullet through jello."*—D.C. City Paper

New York-based singer/writer **Suzanne Lorge** announces the digital-only re-release of her debut jazz album, *Wild Birds*, now available via all streaming platforms. The CD originally launched as part of the Cornelia Street Café VoxEcstatic series in fall 2016.

Eight traditional swing, bebop, and Latin tunes form the nucleus of *Wild Birds*, a song exploration of the migratory nature of human relationships—how we become close, only to move apart and, ultimately, return to each other again.

On the album, Suzanne's luminous vocals are offset by two different trios of world-class musicians. The late **Frank Kimbrough**, pianist for Maria Schneider's Grammy-winning jazz orchestra, joined forces with bassist **Dean Johnson** and drummer **Tim Horner** on six of the tracks, and pianist **David Budway** led bassist **Hans Glawischnig** and drummer **Tommy Campbell** on the remaining two.

The title track features Frank on an achingly beautiful ballad by composer/pianist **Daryl Kojak**, inspired by Rodgers & Hammerstein's "If I Loved You," while Suzanne interprets the poem that shares the album's title—her tribute in verse to the wisdom of the natural world. Through the poem's central metaphor of wild birds, Suzanne delivers a powerful message about loss, letting go, and our natural ability to heal. The track takes on added poignancy in light of Frank's untimely passing in December 2020.

Suzanne also contributed original lyrics to the jazz waltz "Better Than Anything," a jubilant romp through some of the unforgettable places that she's visited in her world travels. As a young jazz student, Suzanne spent many an hour dissecting singer Irene Kral's version of this bop classic, fascinated by the iconic singer's cool, straight-toned sound.

For this solo debut, Suzanne would revisit several other tunes from Kral's 1963 album with the Junior Mance Trio, *Better Than Anything*: Ray Noble's romantic down-tempo, "The Touch of Your Lips," as a mid-tempo swing, with echoes of Mance's brisk arrangement. Jerome Kern's final composition, "Nobody Else But Me," in a double-time feel, with plenty of space for the band to extemporize at full bore. And "No More," a rarely heard anthemic ballad popularized by Billie Holiday, here as a rubato duet between Suzanne and Frank.

But in contrast with Kral's mournful take on "Gentle Rain," the title track from the posthumous release of the singer's final album in 2001, Suzanne delves into the hopefulness buried deep in Luiz Bonfá's classic bossa. This bid for human connection finds full lyric expression on the Johnny Mercer/Harold Arlen standard, "Out Of This World," arranged with contrasting feels by master vocalist **Jay Clayton**, one of Suzanne's most beloved mentors.

On "Fifty Ways (To Leave Your Lover)," Suzanne settles effortlessly into the funky, odd-meter groove of David Budway's arrangement, an excellent showpiece for the album's second dynamic trio. And on "The Very Thought Of You," with its delicate 6/8 lilt, that these superb musicians reveal their more reflective side, as Suzanne soothing voice warms to Ray Noble's romantic lyrics.

About Suzanne:

**Suzanne Lorge** has three decades of performing experience on global stages, among them Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Radio City Music Hall in her hometown of New York City. She's contributed to dozens of albums, films, and commercials as a lead, guest, or backup vocalist. In addition, she's self-produced two solo albums, *Wild Birds* (2016, 2020 digital re-release) and *Dark Sky, Waiting* (2023).

While her primary mode of musical expression is contemporary jazz, over the years she's worked across several genres. Notable collaborators include jazz pianists **Frank Kimbrough**, **David Budway**, and **John DiMartino**; celebrated operatic tenor **Francisco Casanova**; rock guitarist **Paul Reed Smith**; and award-winning composer/arranger **Lanny Meyers**.

When not singing, Suzanne writes about music, culture, and business. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *NPR.com*, *Huffington Post*, *The Washington Times*, *Jazziz* magazine and *Institutional Investor* magazine. In addition, she writes reviews and features for *Downbeat* magazine and a monthly column on vocal jazz for *The New York City Jazz Record* (formerly *All About Jazz-New York*).

Suzanne holds a BA in Modern Languages & Literature from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and an MA in Music Performance & Composition from New York University.

Wild Birds Track Listing

1. Better Than Anything (David Wheat/Bill Loughborough, 3:09)  
*Additional lyrics by Suzanne Lorge*
2. Gentle Rain (Luiz Bonfá/Matt Dubey, 4:53)
3. Out Of This World (Harold Arlen/Johnny Mercer, 5:49)
4. The Touch Of Your Lips (Ray Noble, 3:09)
5. Fifty Ways To Leave Your Lover (Paul Simon, 3:42))
6. No More (Salvador Camarata/Sidney Keith, 3:07)
7. Nobody Else But Me (Jerome Kern/Oscar Hammerstein, 3:20)
8. The Very Thought Of You (Ray Noble, 5:30)
9. Wild Birds (Daryl Kojak, 6:00)

Total Running Time: 38:41

Personnel: Suzanne Lorge, voice (all tracks), spoken word (9); Frank Kimbrough, piano, (tracks 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9); Dean Johnson, bass (tracks 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9); Tim Horton, drums, percussion (tracks 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9); David Budway, piano (tracks 5, 8); Hans Glawischnig, bass (tracks 5, 8); Tommy Campbell, drums, percussion (tracks 5, 8).

*Wild Birds*, poem by Suzanne Lorge.

Cover photo by Gavin Spear.

Recorded at Systems Two Recording Studio, Brooklyn, New York. Engineered, mixed, and mastered by Max Ross and Mike Marciano. Produced by Suzanne Lorge.

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