Laura Dreyer

And The Manhattan - Rio Connection



LAURA DREYER & THE MANHATTAN • RIO CONNECTION features saxophonist & flutist **Laura Dreyer** performing dynamic original Brazilian Jazz compositions and colorful arrangements of Brazilian standards. Showcasing an ensemble of top **Brazilian Jazz artists**, the ensemble synthesizes catchy lyrical melodies with jazz and Brazilian rhythms resulting in an exciting contemporary palette of sound with a strong rhythmic twist!

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Biography

Saxophonist, flutist, and composer **Laura Dreyer** is a vibrant, creative voice in the New York jazz scene. Her catchy original compositions combine lyrical melodies with Brazilian rhythms, jazz, and funk, resulting in an exciting, contemporary palette of sound with a strong rhythmic twist. A multi-instrumentalist, Dreyer performs both nationally and internationally with her Brazilian Jazz ensemble, **Laura Dreyer & the Manhattan-Rio Connection**, and is additionally in great demand as a sideperson. Audiences have heard her in the bands of such diverse artists as such as pianist **Dom Salvador, Antonio Adolfo, Amaro Freitas, Dr. Billy Taylor, Walter Bishop Jr., Mel Lewis, Robert Palmer, Nnenna Freelon, Lea Delaria, Leny Andrade, Portinho, Helcio Milito, saxophonist/author James McBride, Sherrie Maricle and the Diva Jazz Orchestra** and, **Mark Levine**, as well as many others. Laura was the recipient of a **2024 Performance Plus** grant from **Chamber Music America** to produce a recording of original compositions, and was mentored by the great Brazilian pianist/composer **Dom Salvador**, who is also featured on the album.Laura has recorded five albums as a leader/producer, including **Mysterious Encounter (Lavasphere), Free Flying Bird (Sony/Piloo), Sax in the City (Apria), Vida. Arte. Amor. (Mayimba Jazz)**, and her newest release **Água e Sol (Lavasphere)**. She is also featured on acclaimed Brazilian pianist Dom Salvador's release, **The Art of Samba Jazz**, which received a **Premio da Musica Brasileira award for Best Instrumental CD**. Dreyer has a Bachelor of Arts degree from **SUNY Empire State College**, where she received a **SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence**, and was also a scholarship student at the acclaimed **Berklee College of Music**. Dreyer studied with noted music educators **Andy McGee, Joe Viola, and John LaPorta**. In addition, she took private lessons with saxophone greats **Joe Henderson, Joe Lovano**, and **Hal Stein**, composers **Lyle Mays** and **Jim McNeely**.

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Select Recent Performances

- **Laura Dreyer & The Manhattan/Rio Connection** - **Mr. Tipples**, San Francisco, CA (July 2024, November 2025, August 2026)
- Featured performer with **The Dom Salvador Samba Jazz Quartet**, **SESC Pompeía**, São Paulo, Brazil (October, 2025)
- **The Blue Note Rio Piano Bar Experience with Adaury Mothé**, Rio de Janiero, Brazil (August 2025)
- Featured performer with **The Dom Salvador Samba Jazz Sextet, Cerrado Jazz Festival**, Brasilia, Brazil (August, 2025)
- Featured performer with **The Dom Salvador Samba Jazz Sextet**, **Winter Jazzfest**, Drom NYC 1/2025
- **Laura Dreyer & The Manhattan/Rio Connection** - **Bird & Beckett**, San Francisco, CA 7/2024
- **The Bill Evans Jazz Festival**, Artist in Residence, Hammond, LA 4/2024
- **Jazz Arts Charlotte** with **Five Play**, Charlotte, NC 3/2024
- Featured performer with **The Dom Salvador Samba Jazz Quartet**, Dakar, Senegal (January 2024)
- Featured performer with **The Fostina Dixon Project** , **MCG Jazz** (March 2023)
- **Mark Levine Tribute Concert**, **Freight and Salvage**, Berkeley, CA (November 2022)
- **The Lodge Room**, Highland Park, CA (with Dom Salvador) 6/2022
- **Central Park Summerstage** (with Dom Salvador), New York, NY 9/2021
- **Laura Dreyer & The Manhattan/Rio Connection, Welcome Back New York** - New York, NY 9/2021
- **Laura Dreyer & The Manhattan/Rio Connection, The Blue Note Napa** - Napa, CA, 3/2019
- **Laura Dreyer & The Manhattan/Rio Connection, Jazz Forum Arts** - Tarrytown, N.Y. 9/2017, 2019, 2020, 2021
- **Laura Dreyer & The Manhattan/Rio Connection. The California Jazz Conservatory** - Berkeley, CA 6/201,
- **Laura Dreyer & The Manhattan/Rio Connection, Montpelier Arts Center** - Laurel, MD, 3/2017
- **Laura Dreyer & The Manhattan/Rio Connection, The Montavilla Jazz Festival** - Portland, OR, 8/2016
- **Laura Dreyer & The Manhattan/Rio Connection. The Sound Room** - Oakland, CA , 2016, 2017, 2019, 2024
- **Laura Dreyer & The Manhattan/Rio Connection.Twins Jazz** - Washington, DC, 5/2016

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Press

"From the opening notes, Água e Sol ("Water and Sun") reveals Dreyer's command of melody and groove. Her performances on alto and soprano saxophones, as well as flute, are fluid and lyrical, weaving seamlessly through complex Brazilian rhythms. Each track on Água e Sol exemplifies Laura Dreyer's commitment to blending jazz with Brazilian musical traditions. What sets Água e Sol apart is its clarity of vision. Each track contributes to a cohesive sonic narrative while offering distinct textures and moods. Dreyer's deep knowledge of Brazilian music comes through in every phrase, yet she never treats the tradition as static; instead, she reshapes it with a modern jazz palette, creating music that feels at once rooted and forward-looking."

-Danilo Navas, Latin Jazz Network

"Every once and awhile an artist comes around to surprise everyone with the proficiency in an idiom naturally foreign to him or her. The saxophonist and flutist Laura Dreyer is one such artist. The Portuguese idiom of Brasil comes so naturally to her that she could almost fool even the most astute listener into believing that she is Brasilian."

- Raul da Gama, Latin Jazz Network

"Dreyer's many original compositions on the album explore a full range of Brazilian styles - samba, bossa nova, maracatú, baião, samba-funk, and bolero, combining them with jazz and a few rock touches. Throughout, she demonstrates her deep understanding of the subtleties of Brazilian phrasing, as well as her own virtuosity on both the alto saxophone and flute. Vida. Arte. Amor. draws you in, and keeps you there. Laura Dreyer finds the heart of Brazil and invites us to come along. Get on board, non-stop."

- Tim Wilkins, WBGO

"Balmy bossa-influenced jazz-pop from a pretty San Francisco native whose sax and flute playing do indeed suggest she's learned a bit from Milton Nascimento and Gilberto Gil records...smooth, but not that smooth. The Beatles cover is quite tasty."

- Chuck Eddy/Village Voice

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