

BIO

# Ellen Robinson

**“Ellen Robinson knows how to connect with an audience...she just lets it fly, and what happens is a lovely melodic parade.”**

Jim Santella / All About Jazz

**J**azz vocalist Ellen Robinson is a breath of fresh air. Swinging, sparkling vocals are her trademark, with a repertoire full of surprises, ranging from up-tempo rhythms to the hushed intensity of ballads.

Celebrated for impeccable timing, clever phrasing and her expertise in telling a story with warmth and vulnerability, she does it all effortlessly, without artifice. The songs she writes and performs are full of quirky rhythms and catchy melodies – like the lady herself – upbeat and full of personality.

Ellen and her quartet of top Bay Area musicians bring a joyous interplay to their performances and meld their individual sounds into a single beautiful voice. Their mutual respect and admiration are abundantly evident. Multi talented pianist **Murray Low** ([www.linkedin.com/in/murraylow](http://www.linkedin.com/in/murraylow)) has been nominated for two Grammys and also for 2008 Pianist of the Year by the *Latin Jazz Corner*. **Sam Bevan** ([www.sambevan.com](http://www.sambevan.com)) a versatile bassist with tone, swing and chops, is solidly in-the-groove in any style from jazz to funk to Afro-Cuban and has worked with such notables as Roswell Rudd, David Grisman and Mary Wilson. **Kristen Strom** ([www.kristenstrom.com](http://www.kristenstrom.com)) one of the finest contemporary sax players has recorded with many renowned jazz and pop singers such as Kevin Mahogany and Natalie Cole, in addition to leading her own quintet. Drummer **Dan Foltz** ([www.danielfoltz.com](http://www.danielfoltz.com)) has toured with Grammy winner Shelby Lynne and performs with Pan-Latin bands Ritmojito and Sombra y Luz.

Vocalist, composer, musician, choral director, and educator, Ellen grew up on the east coast, where she began piano lessons at the age of nine and taught herself guitar 11. She sang in her high school chorus, studied piano in college, and later performed as a singer/songwriter in folk clubs in New York City. Eventually moving to California, she embraced the world of jazz and has been performing as a jazz vocalist ever since.

Ellen has appeared in the San Francisco Bay area at Yoshi's, Paramount Theater, Freight & Salvage, the Jazzschool, Chapel of the Chimes, Storyville, and the Jazz and Blues by the Bay Festival, among many other venues. She has also enjoyed collaborations with many talented jazz musicians, including pianists **Ken French** and **Ben Flint**; bass players **John Wiitala** and **John Schifflett**; reed players **Charles McNeal** and **Harvey Wainapel**; drummers **Jeff Mars** and **Jon Arkin**.

Her second CD “Mercy! Ellen Robinson Live” released in 2006, captures those transparent moments and passionate one-of-a-kind performances in a compilation of songs selected from four different concerts performed since her first CD “On My Way To You” released in 2001. She produced both of these recordings on her own EMR MUSIC label with Grammy nominated CD producer **Bud Spangler** ([www.budspangler.com](http://www.budspangler.com)), also known in the San Francisco Bay Area as a masterful drummer, seasoned concert producer, and former KCSM & KJAZ radio host.