

# BIOS

## JUNE BISANTZ



Award-winning vocalist and visual artist JUNE BISANTZ has co-written and produced several collections of original vocal jazz, all of which have received national recognition. In addition to many other awards and honors, the Connecticut Office of the Arts has recently given Ms. Bisantz a 2025 Artistic Excellence Fellowship Award for her work in both visual art and music.

Bisantz has toured internationally, and performed and recorded with distinguished jazz musicians including *Steve Swallow, Bob Moses, Paul Brown, Lew Soloff, Jerry Neiwood, Mike Stern, Jon Burr, Steve Davis & Will Lee*. Reviews and articles about her work have appeared in publications including *People Magazine, USA Today, Downbeat, JazzQuad.Ru, Jazziz Magazine, Jazz Podium Magazine, Jazz USA, the New York Times, New York Newsday & the Boston Globe*. Her work has been

released on the *Pausa* and *Nova* labels, Los Angeles, *Alpha Records, Japan, Track Records* and *Arabesque Records, NY*.

Following a two-volume tribute to the vocal work of the legendary Chet Baker (*Let's Fall in Love & It's Always You*), Bisantz released *Love's Tango*, co-written with pianist & composer **Alex Nakhimovsky**. This project signaled her return to original music with a collection of Latin inspired songs about love in its many forms. *Love's Tango* received a 2019 *Global Music Award* for Lyrics and Songwriting, a 2024 *World Songwriting Award* for Best Jazz Song and a 2024 *Clouzine International Music Award* for best Latin Pop Album. Since then, both her 2022 and 2023 releases, *7 Shades of Snow* and *It's Been A Long, Long Time*, have received *Global Music Awards* in the *Female Vocalist* and *Americana* categories. She is currently working with producer David West on a project dedicated to the vocal work of Fred Astaire.

Ms. Bisantz is Professor Emeritus of Art & Design at Eastern Connecticut State University who has exhibited her visual art work in galleries, museums and public spaces throughout the United States. She designs and produces publicity and album artwork for her own projects and those of many other musicians

**Listen:** <https://open.spotify.com/artist/70bdmSCIFAM2dJWP7v9tjM>

**Photos & Video:** <https://www.junebisantz.com/photos>

**Reviews:** <https://www.junebisantz.com/reviews>

## ALEX NAKHIMOVSKY



Award-winning pianist ALEX NAKHIMOVSKY enjoys a versatile career as a performer, composer, recording artist, producer and educator.

Alex's musical accomplishments as a Jazz and Classical artist include musical direction and arranging as well as solo and ensemble performances. He has toured throughout the United States, Russia, Japan and Israel, performing with Jazz legends Benny Golson, Jackie McLean, Jimmy Cobb, Valery Ponomarev, Sheila Jordan, Curtis Fuller, Victor Bailey and Grammy nominated artists Bill Evans, Carla Cook, René Marie and Jazzmeia Horn. Nakhimovsky's discography includes releases from the United States, Europe and Asia. In 2005, he was featured with Japan's New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra on An American in Paris a Universal Label release; and later performed in Japan's major concert halls with the orchestra to promote the recording.

Nakhimovsky's impressive classical repertoire, which spans the gamut from Chopin to Gershwin, has led to performances on concert stages including Carnegie Hall (2007) and Steinway Hall (2000) in New York City. In addition to his multi-level career as a performer, recording artist and concert producer, Alex accompanies and arranges for notable singers from a wide range of musical genres, leading to international performances throughout the USA, Europe, Asia and Israel. Recent collaborations include concerts with Metropolitan bass Mikhail Svetlov; cellist Sergey Antonov, gold medal winner of the Tchaikovsky international competition; celebrated arranger and fadolinist Lev Zhurbin; rising opera star Zhanna Alkhazova and others. Since January of 2023 Alex has also worked as pianist and music director for well known actor and singer Robert Davi, performing the Sinatra song book. His most recent composition, Suite 2022, premiered in June, 2022 with the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra and jazz trio, featuring violinist Brunilda Myftaraj. The piece continues to be performed throughout the United States.

In an ongoing collaboration, Nakhimovsky has been pianist, music director and arranger for jazz vocalist/lyricist June Bisantz. Bisantz & Nakhimovsky have recorded, performed and toured together since 2005 including multiple tours of Asia. Bisantz & Nakhimovsky have received three international music awards for their co-written project, Love's Tango: a Global Music Award, 2019, Lyrics and Songwriting; a World Songwriting Award, 2024, Best Jazz Song Spring 2024; and a Clouzine International Music Award, Fall 2024, Best Latin Pop Album. Prior to this successful collaboration, Nakhimovsky worked with Bisantz as music director, pianist and arranger, to create a two-volume tribute to the vocal work of the legendary Chet Baker.

## MATT DWONSZYK



Matt Dwonszyk is a Connecticut-born, New York-based, bassist, composer, arranger, bandleader and educator.

Dwonszyk has shared the bandstand with trumpeter Eddie Henderson; saxophonist Bennie Wallace; trombonist Steve Davis; pianists George Cables, Harold Mabern, Larry Willis, and Joey Alexander; and vocalist Jazzmeia Horn, among many others. He can regularly be found with drummer Jonathan Barber's Vision Ahead, trios by pianist Jon Davis and saxophonist Julieta Eugenio, and saxophonist Sarah Hanahan's quartet. He also leads his namesake ensemble, the Dwonztet.

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Dwonszyk began playing the electric bass at age eleven. At the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts High School, he switched to upright bass, thereby embarking on his journey into the heart of jazz. He then attended the Jackie McLean-founded Artists Collective after-school program, under the direction of the sax legend's son, René.

After graduating with a Bachelor's of Music in Jazz Studies from UHart, Dwonszyk obtained a Master's of Music at SUNY Purchase College in New York, where he studied with professors in trumpeter Jon Faddis, guitarist John Abercrombie, and bassists Todd Coolman and Doug Weiss.

In 2015, Dwonszyk was accepted into the Bopsyie Lowery Jazz Living Residency for his original compositions and was awarded in DownBeat Magazine for his arrangement of "What A Wonderful World." In 2018 — the year he released his debut album, *Wonderful World* — Dwonszyk toured Russia as part of the Rainy Days Jazz Festival. In 2019, and toured through Canada with the Oleg Butman Trio and in 2020 with Jonathan Barber and Vision Ahead through the West Coast.

He released 2022's *A Year and a Day*, recorded with his versatile, namesake ensemble, the Dwonztet. That year, with the Julieta Eugenio Trio, Dwonszyk won the 2022 DC JazzPrix Competition at the Washington, DC Jazz Festival.

True to his roots, Dwonszyk's latest album was 2024's *Donny Time: The Music of Don DePalma*, an album-length tribute to Hartford's late, great pianist — with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the DePalma Roy Scholarship. That year, Dwonszyk toured Europe with Barber, performing in London; Paris; and Muri, Switzerland — in the former, at the legendary Ronnie Scott's Club. He also performed in Mexico City and Guadalajara with Jazz at Lincoln Center's New York Jazz All Stars — produced by DeQuinta Producciones, and featuring drummer Joe Farnsworth, pianist Emmet Cohen, and Hanahan.

In 2025, Dwonszyk will perform and record in Buenos Aires, Argentina; his next album, live at the Side Door Jazz Club, will release in the fall. With his Dwonztet, he will perform on July 26th at the Litchfield Jazz Festival. He will also be teaching jazz bass at Amherst College.

## **SELECTED REVIEWS BISANTZ & NAKHIMOVSKY:**

More reviews: <https://www.junebisantz.com/reviews>

*"Rich toned vocalist June Bisantz, and classy pianist Alex Nakhimovsky lead a 4 member rhythm team, 3 member string section and horn section respectively through a breezy collection of irresistible sambas and beyond...A strong outing with new South American sounds."*

### **Jazz Weekly**

George W. Harris

*"A delightful collection of original music all pinioned in the Latin genre and offering appreciably well-hewn lyrics and melodies about love, with a focus on musicality. Of note is the effortless sophistication of Nakhimovsky's compositional writing... his arranging and writing skills, coupled with Bisantz well-crafted lyrics is inspired. At times their writing is so polished it's easy to forget how harmonically complex these tunes really are, as you find yourself swept away by the emotions of the songs."*

### **All About Vocals**

J. Pepper

*"June Bisantz and Alex Nakhimovsky, deliver a work that combines soft, melodic, jazz themes with a Rachmaninoff inspired string section - a magnificent work...Put this on and get lost in romance."*

### **Audiophile**

Paul Wilson

*"June Bisantz is a subtle and quietly swinging singer with a soft and cool-toned voice. Her soothing, yet heated vocals, the melodic material, and the high musicianship make Love's Tango a memorable listening experience."*

### **LA Jazz Scene**

Scott Yanow

*"Co-leaders June Bisantz, a lauded vocalist and pianist Alex Nakhimovsky have come together to create a decisively Latin flavored casting of original compositions that are inventive as well as artistic, while still maintaining a deeply musical vehicle. Bisantz has an easy-going alto style with a low burn sensuality that percolates with assuredness and sophistication. Nakhimovsky is genius with his colorizations of the melodies. You can hear the delicacy and maturity within his note choices.*

*Delightfully witty lyrics, paired with music that enlivens the senses and lightens your heart. An engaging listen from start to finish, Love's Tango is a recording of urbanity and splendor. That's the short of it!"*

### **Staccatofy**

Adjoran Horvat