

Interview: A conversation with jazz vocalist Kathy Kosins

By [Michelle Humphrey](#), Denver Jazz and R&B Examiner

Jazz vocalist [Kathy Kosins](#) has recently released her fifth album, *To the Ladies of Cool* ([Resonance Records](#)). In a recent interview, Kosins talked about her life as a musician, as well as her new album.

Kosins knew when she was 18 years old that she wanted to make a career out of music. Amazingly, she has had no formal training. “I felt a driving, burning desire to do this,” she said. Her earliest influences were jazz instrumentalists such as Miles Davis and Charlie Parker. Kosins likes a wide array of music which has undoubtedly shaped her into the musician she is today. She was also listening to R&B and rock music at an early age. Her favorites included Motown artists, Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix. When she’s not busy with her other projects, Kosins also performs in an R&B band.

Kosins is a multi-talented person. She is a singer, composer, songwriter, arranger, educator, and painter. She has been able to maintain a second career as a visual artist, primarily a painter of abstract original canvases, and has enjoyed gallery showings of her works throughout North and South America. “Music and painting are equal parts of who I am. I sing what I paint and I paint what I sing. I use the lyric and melody for color and shape inspiration,” Kosins explained.

Kosins explained her life as a musician like a tree: “The foundation of my music is the roots. The trunk of the tree holds many branches, and every branch has taken me to different places.” There is no doubt that her life has had many wonderful twists and turns. Not only does she have a rewarding career as a musician, but she is able to tour the world, she books almost all of her own gigs, teaches college classes and can handle the business side of her music and painting.

The new album is not a tribute album. Kosins spent a lot of time going through obscure material, and she found herself drawn to these four canonical female singers from the 1950s: Anita O’Day, June Christy, Chris Connor, and Julie London. She started with twenty songs and ended up with ten on the new album. “The songs spoke to me both artistically and musically,” she said. Kosins made a point of recording the CD in Los Angeles, which is ground zero for the “West Coast Cool” jazz movement associated with these talented women.

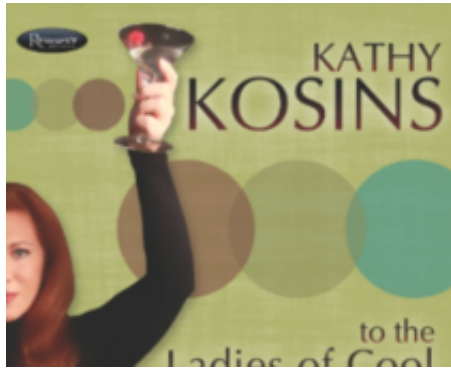
The album is receiving rave reviews and is the March 2012 CD of the Month at [KUVU](#), Denver’s jazz station.

To the Ladies of Cool track listing:

1. Learning the Blues
2. Nightbird
3. Don’t Wait Up for Me

- 4. All I Need is You
- 5. Free and Easy
- 6. Hershey Kisses
- 7. Lullaby in Rhythm
- 8. November Twilight
- 9. Kissing Bug
- 10. Where Are You

For more information: <http://www.kathykosins.com/>and <http://www.resonancerecords.org/>



Kathy Kosins' new album "To the Ladies of Cool" is available now
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Michelle Humphrey

Denver Jazz and R&B Examiner

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