

A photograph of Laura Dreyer, a blonde woman with long hair, wearing a vibrant, multi-colored floral dress. She is holding a gold saxophone and looking towards the camera. The background is a red brick wall. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**Laura Dreyer & 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, **Laura Dreyer & The Manhattan/Rio Connection** 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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**Laura Dreyer & The Manhattan/Rio Connection** features saxophonist, flutist, and composer Laura Dreyer, accompanied by an ensemble of stellar Brazilian jazz artists. Their music demonstrates the special sound that Brazilian jazz has developed in the New York jazz scene.

Dreyer, who lives in New York City, is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area. She has pursued her passion for Brazilian music for over 30 years while also cutting a strong careerpath in American jazz. She enjoys combining her vast experience as a jazz musician with her passion for Brazilian musical styles.

Her newest release, *Vida. Arte. Amor.*, (Mayimba Jazz), was recorded in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and has received rave reviews. Dreyer has released three other CDs as a leader and producer, including *Mysterious Encounter* (Lavasphere), *Free Flying Bird* (Piloo), and *Sax in the City* (Apria). She is featured on acclaimed Brazilian pianist Dom Salvador's release, *The Art of Samba Jazz*, which received the Premio da Musica Brasileira award for Best Instrumental CD.

Dreyer, who has toured nationally and internationally, has headlined at the Kennedy Center's Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival, The Syracuse Jazz Festival, The Montavilla Jazz Festival, as well as many NYC venues including The Blue Note, Fat Cat, Sweet Rhythm, Birdland, Zinc Bar, and many others. Recent engagements include The Blue Note Napa (Napa, California), Twins Jazz (Washington DC), An Die Musik Live (Baltimore, MD), The Sound Room (Oakland, CA), TribOz and Santo Scenarium (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Christos (Salem, OR), to name a few.

The group's program features original contemporary Brazilian jazz, as well as arrangements of Brazilian jazz classics. Dreyer's compositions combine catchy, lyrical melodies in a variety of Brazilian styles such as samba, bossa nova, baião, afoxé, maracatu, partido alto, and more. [Read full bio...](#)



- Featured performer with Sherrie Maricle and The Diva Jazz Orchestra, Dizzy's Club NYC (March 2023)
- 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
- Welcome Back New York - New York, NY 9/2021
- The Blue Note Napa - Napa, CA, 3/2019
- Jazz Forum Arts - Tarrytown, N.Y. 9/2017, 2019, 2020, 2021
- The California Jazz Conservatory - Berkeley, CA 6/2018
- Montpelier Arts Center - Laurel, MD, 3/2017
- Brazilian Music Foundation 2nd Annual Choro Festival - New York, NY, 11/2016
- The Montavilla Jazz Festival - Portland, OR, 8/2016
- The Sound Room - Oakland, CA , 2016, 2017, 2019
- Twins Jazz - Washington, DC, 5/2016
- An Die Musik Live - Baltimore, MD, 4/2016
- Christos Jazz - Salem, OR, 4/2016

## Select Recent Workshops

- Brockton High School, Jazz Improvisation Workshop - Brockton, MA, 4/2023
- The California Jazz Conservatory - Berkeley, CA, 2/2107, 6/2018
- Portland State University - Portland, OR, 4/2016
- The University of Reno, Nevada - Reno, NV, 4/2016
- The Brazilian Music Foundation Schol of Music, New York, NY, 12/15



## Press

“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 Brazilian.”

- **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**

“..this music is the stuff that keeps you young. This is a set of utterly killer Latin jazz that hits the mark throughout.”

- **Midwest Record Entertainment Reviews**

“You don’t need extensive music theory training or a music degree to appreciate her catchy and artful saxophone melodies...She’s a musical straight-shooter who understands the value in a memorable melody. Vida. Arte. Amor. isn’t a bold statement, a power play, or a grandstanding affair. It’s simply an expression of joy, lovingly delivered by the talented **Laura Dreyer**.”

- **Dan Bilawsky, All About Jazz**