

KAREN LEWELLEN

Mistress of Musical Moments

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GENERAL BIO...

When you ask Karen Lewellen, "so, what do you do?," Her answer is quick and lit with a smile. "I am a character singer. I bring lyrics to life and make personalities present for my audience."

For more than a decade, Karen Lewellen has been breathing life into songs, old and new, all across the country. From "Seatons" and "The Blue Room" in the North, to "Storieville" and "The Stick and Rutter" out West; from "The Famous Door" and B. B. King's down South, to "The Apollo" and the "Kennedy Center " in the East, Karen creates more than music, she makes moments.. " and it's those moments that really matter," Karen Lewellen says. "Even if I am doing something the audience might have heard a hundred times, I want them to take away something extra special when they hear it from me."

Enchanted by music at the age of three, Karen Lewellen quickly realized the magic music brings to people's lives. "A song is something you add to your life to make it bigger. And sometimes the songs, which are like a magical experience in themselves, are missing from the airways now, but then they arrive again, hitting you where you live, explaining things – giving you hope. For songs are better at providing hope than all the lectures in the world."

Karen Lewellen brings a vast array of non-musical experience to her stages, drawing from many years as a radio producer and talk host, counselor, legal researcher and theatrical performer. Karen is a song stylist who brings to the best and most characterful songs of the century the bursts of energy, passion and the swoony blues that can make the newest hit seem a small experience.

"But I also sing the newest hits," she says, "when there's something aching and wonderful there. And, often times, I find just that. Songs are like people, with some whose familiar presence warms our heart with memories, and others whose very newness adds color and vividness to our everyday lives.

A native of Jonesboro Arkansas, Karen Lewellen is now headquartered in New York City, where she is writing a whole new chapter in her creative saga. A chronicler of the life and times of Karen Lewellen said: "The realization that she's blind is not always instant. In the midst of a song, her eyes open wide and the lyrics come in high round notes or, if she wants, throaty growls and whispers. While music is just one of the ways she communicates it may be the one she cares most about ..."

So, what's next for this Mistress of Musical Moments? "I like to end all my stories with a semi-colon," Karen Lewellen says. "I'm still growing."



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PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE:

2002	"Evening of Story and Song," NYU Medical Center, New York, NY
2001-02	Chez Suzette's, Various, New York, NY
2000	Don't Tell Mama, New York, NY
1999	Eighty-Eights Cabaret, New York, NY
1998	The Stick and Rutter, Sacramento, CA
1998	Storieville Nightclub, San Francisco, CA
1996-97	The Torch Club, Sacramento, CA
1995-96	Jazzmen's Art of Pasta, Sacramento, CA
1994	Starsearch, Audition, Atlanta, GA
1994	Hilton Hotel, with Arkansas Jazz Society, Hot Springs, AR
1993	B. B. King's Blues Club, Memphis, TN
1993	Joyce Cob's, with Memphis Jazz Orchestra, Memphis, TN
1993	Concert - Live Recording, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR
1991	The Oyster Bar, Little Rock, AR
1990	Mr. Henry's, Nightclub, Washington, D.C.
1989	Concert at J. F. Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.
1989	The Famous Door (Nightclub) Engagement, New Orleans, LA
1988	Amateur Night Performance, Apollo Theater, New York, NY

BENEFITS:

1996-97	Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society, Sacramento, Ca
1996-97	Newman Catholic Community, Sacramento, CA
1989	Smithsonian Institution, Benefit -Entertainment, Haitian Embassy, Washington D.C.
1989	Concert at Catholic University, Washington, D.C.
1986-87	United Cerebral Palsy Telethon, Various
1985-90	United Way, Various
1985-87	Special Olympics, Various
1984	Muscular Dystrophy Association, Various

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What do others say about: **KAREN LEWELLEN** Mistress of Musical Moments?

"So, I'm in this little club in Chicago, and I am not really expecting much. Just planning to talk with my friends, let the music be in the background, you know? And, out comes this stunning woman, with an electric personality, and a voice as versatile as a Streisand or a Houston, or a Lady Day! She's putting on a show that's a mixture of the best concert I've ever seen, and the greatest Oscar winning performance I've ever watched. Karen Lewellen is incredible."

Jim Taylor, Music Critic, Chicago, IL

"It's a real thrill making music with Karen Lewellen. From the minute you start, you know that you're not just playing a gig, you are creating something special. It is a wonderful experience not just for the audience, but for us guys in the band too."

Scottie White, Storieville, San Francisco, CA

"I remember when I interviewed Karen Lewellen being impressed not only with her warmth and talent, but with her professionalism. We needed a couple of extra shots for the story and anyone else would have just posed by the piano. But, Karen gave us a little performance, a song that was really high on the charts then, and being played a lot on the radio. When I heard Karen Lewellen sing it, it was like the first time, and I wanted to listen over and over. She is going places, I just know it!"

Kathryn Donnaley, Reporter, "The Washington Times," Washington D.C.

"When Karen Lewellen sang here, the audience went crazy! – even when she was doing numbers they'd heard a hundred times before from other artists. She has a standing invitation to grace the stage of this club any time she wants!"

David Martain, B. B. King's, Memphis, TN