

Mazz Swift

Violinist and Singer

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Mazz Swift, a native New Yorker, began playing the violin at age 6. She studied privately for 9 years with Elizabeth Small, Shirley Givens and Timothy Baker. Mazz attended and graduated from the High School of the Performing Arts, during which time she made her solo public performance debut on the stage of New York's Alice Tully Hall, performing alongside members of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. She later attended The Juilliard School of Music.

She has appeared on stage and in recordings with *Versus*, *Sofia Run*, *Suphala*, *Vernon Reid & DJ Logic (Yohimbe Brothers)*, *The Zendik Orgaztra*, *Sorcha Dorcha*, *Preston Clarke*, *Blue Muse*, *Jazzhole* and *alexis Hightower*, among others.

Current commitments for Swift include singing and playing with *Brazz Tree*, a collaborative effort between Mazz and Brad Hammonds (guitar) that explores their many influences from rock to traditional music from around the world to improvisational pieces, performed in the moment (see <http://www.brazztree.com> for sound clips and more information on this band); *TRIGGER*, a rock band that incorporates traditional Irish fiddle tunes backed by driving rhythms and heavy guitar as well as original music written by members of the band (<http://www.triggernyc.com>); and *The Spoodoolix* - a quintet made up of some of the hottest players of traditional Celtic music in the scene.

Mazz also appears often with *Burnt Sugar: The Arkestra Chamber*, who just recently returned from the Banlieues Blues Tour of France and Spain. Burnt Sugar can be found playing in such notable places as Central Park's Summer Stage, Joe's Pub, Tonic, The Knitting Factory, Makor and the Blue Note among other venues around town. {Please go to <http://www.burntsugarindex.com> for more information on this heavy hitting revolutionary musical group made up of some of the most innovative jazz folks in New York as well as many of the original members of the Black Rock Coalition.}

Mazz also finds herself performing with the innovative tabla player, producer and occasional Burnt Sugar guest, **Suphala**.

Other highlights in Mazz's musical journey include performing with *The Speakeasy String Quartet*, an ensemble specializing in vintage Jazz and other musical styles of the 1920's and '30s, at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage

Festival (aka N.O. JazzFest) and at the Waiheke Jazz Festival (which included spots in the Fiji Islands and in New Zealand).

Also, in 2001, Swift was appointed musical director of the off-off Broadway show, *Notice Me* produced by the Rise Theater and Dance Company. The production was featured in the NYC Fringe Festival.

Keep an eye out for <http://www.mazzmuzik.com> (currently being constructed) for news and information on Mazz, for it is ever evolving.....