

Deb Rasmussen - Long Bio (235 words)

Canadian jazz vocalist and songwriter Deb Rasmussen has been enchanting audiences for 20 years. Deb often takes a soft, understated approach to a song, but make no mistake, she can swing! She's known for her spacious, playful interpretations of standards, performing her own tunes, and for the way she makes time stand still as she connects heart-to-heart with listeners.

A proud continuator of the jazz tradition, Deb counts among her influences Carmen McCrae and Abbey Lincoln, and gives back to jazz with her work for Jazz YYC. Deb has studied with vocal jazz greats including Sheila Jordan, Jay Clayton, and Nancy King, at the Banff Centre for the Performing Arts and in Vancouver and the US.

Deb sings as part of the vocal duo DG Duo and with a variety of small combos in her hometown of Calgary, but her talent has taken her to venues across Canada and as far afield as China. She currently partners with Calgary jazz musicians including pianists Jon Day, André Petritty, and Sheldon Zandboer, bassists Simon Fisk and Jeremy Coates, and drummer Robin Tufts.

Deb's long-time collaboration with the late jazz guitarist Keith Smith is highlighted in her first album – *Heart Wide Open*. On *Northern Lights — Altai Khangai*, she adds her vocals to a unique mix of jazz and Mongolian traditional music.

When she's not singing, Deb works as an agricultural economist in countries from Sierra Leone to Tibet.