



KAREN WILLOUGH

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BIO

Karen Willough is a world artist, comfortable singing in many languages. Born in Central America, she grew up in Brooklyn, New York. Singing and performing since the age of five, she began her professional musical career as a songwriter. Willough met friend and future collaborator, michéal Castaldo at The Songwriters Guild of America in New York City.

In the '90s, Castaldo produced two songs written by Willough, one of which was "You Know I Have Angels." It was included in the Canadian film "Right to Fight." The song was later re-recorded and released as a single by Willough in 2017.

But before becoming a solo artist, Willough moved to Europe in 2001, where she focused on classical and baroque choral music. This is where she obtained most of her formal training, performing with groups such as *Capella Sint Jan* in The Netherlands before relocating to Chicago in 2011.

Her first solo single "Tra le tue Braccia," a cover of Daniel Bedingfield's hit "If You're Not the One," translated into Italian by none other than michéal Castaldo, was exceedingly well-received. She went on to release other singles such as "World with You," a duet with Chicago jazz musician Michael Jones. Shortly thereafter, Willough entered the cabaret world under the tutelage of the renowned Beckie Menzie.

Released in 2018, "Scrumptious" was Willough's first CD/EP. It included a swing version of "Whispering," most famously recorded by Paul Whiteman in 1920, as well as a sultry rendition of the 1975 Orleans song "Dance with Me." The title track, "Truly Scrumptious" comes from the film "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang." The song also features a voice/flugelhorn duet with Caleb Mitchell, graduate of the prestigious music program at DePaul University and trumpeter for the group "The Right Now."

Willough can be seen at assorted piano bar venues in the Chicago area such as Davenport's, Skokie Theater, or Drew's on Halsted, making guest appearances alongside many of her musical pals. She also sings regularly with the *Mount Carmel Morning Choir* under the direction of Paul French.