



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 New York, but lived in Europe for a decade. Her voice has been described as sultry and soulful.

Her first release, “Tra le tue Braccia,” a cover of Daniel Bedingfield’s hit “If You’re Not the One” translated into Italian, was exceedingly well-received, surprising and delighting many of her long-time fans.

“Accompanying her masterful passionate vocals are hushed whispers of sound...the balance is ideal as Karen Willough manages to veer from the near silent to the absolute triumphant. By taking such an approach she is able to further emphasize her warm, inviting lyrics. Indeed, Karen Willough’s strong voice serves as the heart of the piece guiding it forward.”

- Skope Magazine

Although Karen has been singing and performing since the age of five, she began her professional musical career as a songwriter, winning an LASC award in, of all things, the Rock category. She later became focused on classical and baroque music, and performed in Europe with groups such as Capella Sint Jan, before relocating to Chicago in 2011. She has spent the last year in Chicago’s cabaret scene under the tutelage of the renowned Beckie Mezie.

Her current single “Shall We Dance” is a swinging, jazz version of Rogers and Hammerstein’s iconic waltz from “The King and I.” The duet, sung with award winning Chicago jazz musician Michael Jones, shows another side of Karen’s vocal versatility. She sings regularly with the Mount Carmel Morning Choir under the direction of the esteemed Paul French, which is where she met Jones, prior to his joining the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Karen Willough is currently working on a jazz album for release next year with long-time friend and Billboard charting producer michéal Castaldo.