

Trumpeter, singer, and composer Sarah Wilson has emerged as "one of the most intriguing and promising composers and trumpeters on the contemporary music scene" (Derk Richardson, *San Francisco Chronicle*). While deeply shaped by jazz, Wilson's music stylistically owes as much to avant pop, Afro-Latin grooves and indie rock as the post-bop continuum.

Wilson's artistic work reflects a dynamic interplay of theater, jazz, dance, and film, which frame her unique, fresh compositional style. Sarah Wilson's 2021 third album *Kaleidoscope* (Brass Tonic Records) reflects that unique chemistry inspired by some of the key musicians in her creative life. She's joined by a nonpareil cast of improvisers, including pianist [Myra Melford](#), drummer [Matt Wilson](#), violinist Charles Burnham, bassist [Jerome Harris](#), and guitarist [John Schott](#).

Her music has premiered nationally and internationally and she has earned wide critical acclaim for her recordings including her 2010 Brass Tonic Records release, *Trapeze Project*. This CD features herself on trumpet and vocals with pianist [Myra Melford](#), bassist [Jerome Harris](#), clarinetist [Ben Goldberg](#), and drummer [Scott Amendola](#) and showcases her "...danceable, visually evocative, and melodic music that is both sophisticated and accessible" (*Jazziz*).

Wilson's original work has earned numerous prestigious commissions from venerable foundations such as the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Center for Cultural Innovation, SF Arts Commission, Fleishhacker Foundation, Zellerbach Foundation, East Bay Community Foundation, New Music USA, and de Young Museum Cultural Encounters Initiative in collaboration with Intersection for the Arts.

Her music is fueled by large-scale community-based arts projects including a 2021 music production, *Tenderloin Voices* in collaboration with the [Tenderloin Museum](#) and [Larkin Street Youth Services](#) working with formerly homeless youth. She was a 2011-2012 Artist Fellow at the de Young Museum with funding from The James Irvine Foundation and created *Off the Walls*, a music and aerial dance production in collaboration with LA-based dance company, Catch Me Bird.

Wilson didn't come to music through the usual channels. As an undergraduate anthropology major at the University of California at Berkeley, Wilson, a lapsed high school trumpet player, took a strong interest in theater. A visiting artist from Vermont's globe-trotting Bread and Puppet Theater inspired her to move east to work on their spectacular giant-puppet productions after graduation. She spent two years as a member of the troupe touring around the world, increasingly conducting, arranging and performing music for their shows.

In 1993, she moved to New York City to concentrate on music, studying with trumpeters John McNeil and Laurie Frink and eventually Schoenberg scholar, Paul Caputo. Through her affiliation with Bread and Puppet Theater, she soon found herself musical director and composer of Lincoln Center's Out of Doors Festival's annual puppet program for a six-year tenure. Wilson absorbed other sources of inspiration from the eclectic downtown New York new music scene of the 1990s into her compositions, and found plenty of NY's heaviest jazz musicians to play

them. Her music scored the American Museum of Natural History's *Body Art* exhibit and she performed trumpet and voice with NYC theater companies Circus Amok, Great Small Works amongst many others.

Moving back to native CA in 2005, Wilson hit the music scene with her critically-acclaimed CD, *Music for an Imaginary Play* on Evander Music, described as "evocative, elegant, and comfortably familiar all at once" (*Time Out NY*), featuring tenor saxophonist [Peck Allmond](#) on tenor sax, guitarist [Steve Cardenas](#), bassist Tony Scherr, and drummer Kenny Wollesen.

Wilson has composed and performed extensively in drummer Kenny Wollesen's music projects including a MASS MoCa commission as well as played trumpet for the Montclair Women's Big Band in the Bay Area for over a decade. She has recorded with pop acts Dusty Trails in addition to other artists.

Wilson has received numerous accolades including a William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Honorary Fellowship as well as residencies at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Z Space, and Stags' Leap Winery.

She currently resides in Oakland, CA.