

# BLACK OLIVE JAZZ



# BIO

Black Olive Jazz features the warm singer Kay Kostopoulos and the veteran Noel Jewkes on tenor, alto, soprano and flute. The group performs a wide range of jazz: swing, standards, blues, latin and originals. Black Olive Jazz brings a Mediterranean feel to jazz, featuring sultry vocals, exotic finger cymbals and serpentine phrases on soprano saxophone.

Kay and Noel have been featured venues and jazz festivals all around the San Francisco Bay Area, including the Sonoma, Napa, Healdsburg, Vallejo, Sacramento, Palo Alto, and Fillmore Jazz Festivals. Their album, "Exotica", a Mediterranean Jazz Journey, received rave reviews, and was honored by the Stanford Humanities celebration.

Kay is also a Stanford lecturer in Business and Theater, professional actress, singer, dancer and director who has performed in plays and musicals in many regional and Bay Area theaters, including the Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, San Francisco and California Shakespeare Festivals, Stanford Summer Theater and A.C.T. (American Conservatory Theatre). Her theatrical background lends an emotional sensitivity to her lush and sensuous three-octave vocal range. Kay's bellydancing has roots in an ethnic history rich in tradition, percussive musicality and precise technique.



# PICTURES



# SELECTED PRESS

"The lovely Ms. Kostopoulos, whose ageless Mediterranean beauty perfectly complements a show incorporating Greek goddesses, set the mood with an excellent rendition of Dizzy Gillespie's "A Night in Tunisia." The star makes extensive use of sensuality in her performance, often with the aid of Turkish finger cymbals, called zills. Kay Kostopolous is a fine performer who will leave you enchanted and informed. New York is lucky to have her."

*Andrew Portez, Theater Pizzazz , NY, NY*

"Near the end of the set at Birdland, Kay Kostopoulos dressed as a member of a harem and sporting two pairs of finger cymbals soloed on "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" was as close to finger cymbal virtuosity as I've ever heard (and if she wasn't also from the Bay Area, I'd claim this as an "only in New York" moment!)."

*Concert Reviews, Frontpage by Thomas Cunliffe*

"Wonderful lyrical imagery that transports the listener to another environment...Velvety vocal work, "

*Billboard*

"Kay is a singer with good technique and beautiful tone."

*William Sostre, Jazz Times*

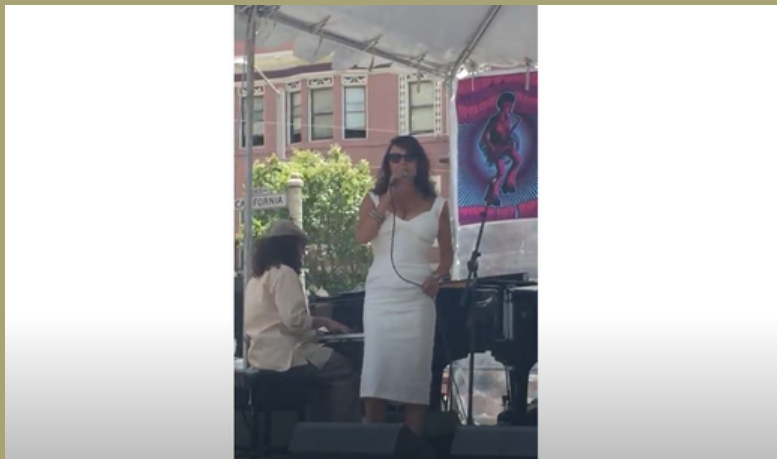
"Beautiful voice with a wide range... Ms. Kostopoulos is equally skilled on ballads and uptempo material...Makes a strong case for being considered a major jazz singer."

*Jazz Critic Scott Yanow*

# LIVE PERFORMANCES



**Temptation, Vallejo Jazz Society**



**"Surry with The Fringe on Top" Original Scat**



**Great American Music Hall with the Mood Swing Orchestra.**