

Friends and family have called her “Sloane” for almost the entirety of her career. Born Carol Morvan, she says she’d settled on the name “Carol Vann” by the time she had her first paying gig when she was 14, but band leader Larry Elgart didn’t think the name worked.

“He’d introduce me as Carol Rogers or Carol Price or Carol Anything until I felt I didn’t have any identity at all! After I’d moved to New York, I used to walk from mid-town to my apartment in the Village every day after my secretarial job, and my trip took me right by an elegant, up-scale furniture store called W.J. Sloane. That was it. I told Larry I wanted to be Carol Sloane - and he agreed without debate.”

The story of jazz singer Carol Sloane begins even before she was out of high school, sneaking into jazz clubs in her hometown of Providence, R.I. Soon after, she was the young ‘girl singer’ touring with the Les & Larry Elgart Jazz Orchestra - stepping into the unknown that soon placed her onto a “New Voices” stage at the famed Newport Jazz Festival in 1961. “Little Girl Blue” was the song. She sang the verse a capella, since the pianist said he didn’t know that part of the number. That proved to be “the moment” - with nothing but the voice, the lyric, the tune - and young Carol Sloane.

Record label executives and major national media reps were standing at the side of the stage with pens in hand as she made her exit. Carol Sloane soared into a career that would eventually place her name and voice among those considered the world's most noted jazz vocalists of the era.

Recordings and TV appearances brought global acclaim. She opened for Woody Allen, Richard Prior, Lenny Bruce, Phyllis Diller and Bill Cosby. She was the regular 'gal singer' for the Arthur Godfrey Show and was featured on the night the broadcast was interrupted for the announcement of the assassination of Pres. John F. Kennedy. She was a regular on The Tonight Show with Jack Paar, and then became known as "Queen of the First Fifteen" with late-night newcomer Johnny Carson, even appearing on the same broadcast with Barbra Streisand.

She has appeared at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Avery Fisher Hall and at Lincoln Center. She has toured Japan extensively and has appeared in Canada, the UK, Spain, Brazil, Portugal and The North Sea Jazz Festival in the Netherlands. She has recorded with jazz luminaries including Art Farmer, Kenny Barron, Phil Woods, Bill Charlap, Frank Wess, Kenny Burrell, Clark Terry, Bill Mays, Houston Person, Jimmy Rowles and Tommy Flanagan.

She was "the jazz singer's jazz singer." There was Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Carmen McRae - "and then there is Carol Sloane."

"And then there is..."

Jazz endured, despite many warnings to the contrary. Carol Sloane watched as "the British Invasion" changed the course of popular music. Her then-manager even handled the first US tours of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Carol was at Shea Stadium for the famed Beatles' performance, and she accompanied Mick Jagger and Keith Richards to the Apollo Theatre to see BB King. She felt the cultural shift taking shape, yet she remained true to her own voice and the music she was born to sing.

She lived in New York City for a large portion of her career, then ventured south to North Carolina for several years, claiming a couple of clubs that had won her heart as home base. She later married producer/impresario Buck Spurr and relocated to Boston, where she still resides. Spurr passed away in 2014.

A call for a long overdue return engagement at the iconic NYC jazz club Birdland in the fall of 2018 put Sloane back in the spotlight. Soon after, invitations began coming in for more appearances, jazz residencies at universities, master class opportunities - and subsequently, the offer to record a new live album on the Birdland stage in September 2019. The journey to that performance steers the new documentary about Carol Sloane's remarkable career and her legacy in the rich jazz landscape she enhanced.

Booked for yet another Birdland engagement in March 2020, her scheduled return that spring became one of the early stateside performance cancellations of the global pandemic. Before our world's "normality" was shattered by the virus, Carol was feeling her spirit revived, continuing to relish opportunities to share her music through performances, conducting master classes for up-and-coming young singers, sipping a glass of champagne and rooting for the Red Sox. Club appearances were less frequent -- but so were the clubs. Carol was a voracious reader, and would issue a regular blog while working on an autobiography. Incessant back pain proved her most constant companion, but Carol Sloane was never one to let "the small stuff" get her down. There were still important songs to share, stories Sloane had lived still to be sung. The Great American Songbook remained her manual, but she welcomed newer gems that always find their way to those who are meant to sing them. "I'll Always Leave the Door a Little Open" is the song-story of her life. A soft amazing *a capella* whisper on an extended tone still brings an audience to a collective awe.

The documentary film SLOANE • A JAZZ SINGER follows this enduring artist as she returns at age 82 to record a live album at Birdland in September 2019. From there, the film looks back on Sloane's remarkable career, with iconic vintage clips from her appearances on CBS Talent Scouts, on the Steve Allen Show, The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson and more. Cameras follow her in 2018 and 2019 for multiple engagements, to the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center in Connecticut, and to a multi-day residency with the jazz studies department at Duke University. Intimate interviews are shared with fellow artists and musicians, including esteemed jazz historian and editor Dan Morgenstern, pianists Bill Charlap and Mike Renzi, noted jazz vocal artists and others who've left markers along the path of the life of Carol Sloane. The film culminates with Carol's closing performance for her live recording engagement at Birdland in September 2019. The CD, "Carol Sloane, Live at Birdland" was released in April 2022.