

Molly Holm, Vocalist/Composer
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BIO

Molly Holm is an unconventional singer and composer who blends jazz, improvisation, and North Indian Raga, reflecting her studies with master vocalist Pandit Pran Nath. For nearly a decade, Molly was a key member of Bobby McFerrin's original *Voicestra*, a group that toured internationally and made numerous television appearances and recordings. She has also performed with minimalist composer Terry Riley (*Khayal*); tabla virtuoso Zakir Hussain (“Rapt, No Strings”); choreographer June Watanabe (*E.O. 9066*); and the avant-garde George Coates Performance Works (*Actual Shō*). Molly has been strongly influenced by African-American Roots Music vocalist Linda Tillery through collaborations on multiple ensemble projects (*Voicestra*, *SoVoSó*, *Vocal Front*, and *Jukebox*). Her compositions for Marcus Gardley’s multi-racial plays, “Love is a Dream House in Lorin” and “This World in a Woman’s Hands,” garnered outstanding reviews. Other credits include writing the lyrics to saxophonist George Brooks' composition, “The Light Never Leaves Your Eyes”—a tribute to Pandit Pran Nath. Molly recorded the vocals for this song on George’s CD, *Night Spinner*.

Molly’s solo CD, *Permission*—released in 2013 on *Rinny Zin Records* and produced by pianist/arranger Frank Martin—is infused with the creative talents of drummers Famoudou Don Moye and Deszon Claiborne, bassist Jeff Chambers, and saxophonist Larry Schneider. Featured guests on her CD (and long-time musical friends) include Wayne Wallace, Marc van Wageningen, Antonia Minnecola, David Frazier and the late greats William “Bill” Bell, Jr., Eddie Marshall and Paul van Wageningen.

All About Jazz described Molly’s CD: “Edgy and defiant ... on the cutting edge of jazz vocals.”

In his blog, *Jazz Station*, Arnaldo DeSouteiro, wrote: “‘Permission’ is an exercise in creativity and a lesson in adventurous music. It’s a completely unpredictable album, full of surprises on each and every track.”