



## HAZEL MITCHELL-BELL BIOGRAPHY

Vocalist Hazel Mitchell-Bell has become one of Washington, D.C.'s first ladies of jazz. Following her highly praised first album *Stronger than Ever* (2018), she released *Sack Full of Dreams* in May 2021. The stunning songstress has since appeared on festival, concert and club stages, enjoying one sellout after another. Working closely with pianist Vince Evans, she performs with big bands and smaller ensembles, stoking the fires of the D.C. jazz scene. With each passing year, her performances take her to more distant points in the U.S. and abroad.

Evans and Mitchell-Bell began working together in 2016. In 2018 they released the CD *Stronger Than Ever*, which includes standards from the Great American Songbook and R&B hits backed by an 11-piece orchestra. The indie album enjoyed 12 weeks on the Roots Music Report Top 50 Jazz Chart, peaking at #12 overall. Robert Rusch of *Cadence Magazine* calls her voice: “fresh and compelling and gripping.” Paul Wilson of *Audiophile* says Mitchell-Bell “holds her own with style and grace.”

Hazel Mitchell-Bell performs in top jazz venues in Baltimore, Annapolis and the District of Columbia, including Keystone Korner, The Kennedy Center and Blues Alley, where she has frequently appeared. She has played the Preservation Jazz Festival, the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival and the Sheldon Cultural Center in St. Louis. She has drawn standing room only audiences to D.C.'s City Winery and received standing ovations from the discerning jazz fans who frequent the popular Westminster Jazz Night series.

Born in Fayetteville, North Carolina to Ernest and Roberta Mitchell, she moved to Washington, D.C. as a toddler and she knows the nation's capital like the back of her hand. Music has been part of her life since elementary school, continuing through high school glee clubs, performances, talent shows and participation in the Mount Carmel Baptist Church youth choir.

Mitchell-Bell comes from a musical family. Her mother was a professional singer from North Carolina who sang gospel as well as jazz and R&B. One sister had her own band and a younger brother and sister appeared on “Showtime at the Apollo.” It is only natural that she shares their singing ability.

She was educated in Washington, D.C. Public Schools. Courses at the University of Maryland and the USDA Graduate School advanced her career in the Federal Government. She received numerous awards in her 38 years working at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Labor Department. She has also been a professional model, appearing in fashion shows and major magazines. After retiring from the Federal Government, she began pursuing a full- time career in music.

Now, from her strong base in the nation's capital, Hazel Mitchell-Bell finds her listening audience growing by leaps and bounds. Through her recordings and performances, she shares her music with jazz fans worldwide. In fall of 2023, she embarks on a South American tour, returning just in time to headline the Annapolis Jazz & Roots Festival.