



HAZEL MITCHELL-BELL

Full 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 appears on festival, concert and club stages, enjoying one sellout after another. Working closely with pianist and Music Director Vince Evans, she performs in a big band and smaller ensembles, stoking the fires of the D.C. jazz scene.

The two have worked together since being introduced 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 and the music flows along." Writing for *Making a Scene*, Jim Hynes calls her "one of the most impressive vocalists to enter this incredibly competitive arena of jazz vocalists."

Hazel Mitchell-Bell has performed in the District's top jazz clubs and the Kennedy Center, the Preservation Jazz Festival, the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival and the Sheldon Cultural Center in St. Louis. With a 17-piece orchestra, she has performed to standing room only audiences at City Winery in Washington, D.C. and received a standing ovation from the seasoned and discerning jazz fans known to 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. 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.

The singer's life has taken many turns. There were decades in which the needs of family and a compelling nine to five position took first place, but when the time was ripe (as it surely is now), her music took front and center position. Today her listening audience is growing by leaps and bounds.

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. When she retired as a program analyst from the Federal Government, she had the resources to pursue a full-time career in music.

In 2016 she was introduced to pianist Vince Evans and has worked with him ever since. In 2018, their collaboration resulted in her debut CD *Stronger Than Ever*, which includes standards from the Great American Songbook and R&B hits. The album title resulted from the passing of her daughter in 2009 and of her husband in 2011, after which she was left to raise "a wonderful 11 year old granddaughter." When her granddaughter left for college, Hazel Mitchell-Bell was left with an empty nest and the time needed to rekindle her passion for music – and she hit the ground running. Now, from her strong base in the nation's capital, she is ready and able to share her music with a wide audience of jazz fans around the world.