

Isabella Mendes

Singer-Songwriter, Pianist, Composer & Educator

BIOGRAPHY

Singer, songwriter, composer, pianist, and educator Isabella Mendes is quickly becoming one of New Haven and Hartford County's top Brazilian and Jazz entertainers in the industry and has earned an impressive list of accomplishments well beyond her years. Mendes' playing though inspired by her performances with other artists, Itaiguara Brandao, Adriano Santos, Fernando Saci, Flavio Lira, Liz Rosa, Denise Reis to name a few, displays her own jazz, Bossa Nova, and her original mix of jazz, pop, Brazilian influences. Born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Isabella started to study music at Centro Live de Aprendizagem Musical – (CLAM), a school founded by Amilton Godoy of the Zimbo Trio, a famous Brazilian ensemble at the age of four. Four years later, she began writing music and taking both private piano and composition lessons. While participating in many piano competitions, concerts, and Masters classes, she earned a scholarship at Magda Tagliaferro, one of the top music schools in Sao Paulo, as a teenager. It wasn't until the age of 15 years old, that Isabella started her jazz and vocal studies when she moved to the United States. While living in Connecticut, she was a student of the Education Center for the Arts (ECA), in New Haven, Connecticut, through which she continued her performances in New Haven County. While attending ECA, Isabella studied with great artists such as Jeff Fuller, a world-renowned bassist living in New Haven, CT who teaches at Yale University. Isabella has earned the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award and was recognized by the town of Hamden, Connecticut as a "Hamden Notable" for excellence in music. She went to college at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts to pursue a bachelor's degree in Structural Engineering and a year later an MBA. She released her all original album "Blame Destiny" in 2017. Isabella is the founder and teacher of IMMUSIC Studio, a private music school, where she teaches piano and voice. She is an advocate for women and diversity in the arts, and is leading workshops bringing diversity through music in schools and community events.

QUOTES

[Isabella's] expressive, pristine vocals, which can mix a sense of vulnerability with resilience and joy, have become part of her effervescent signature sound in appearances in Connecticut clubs and festivals, along, of course, with her well-honed jazz piano playing, rooted in the knowledge and mastery she derived from her classical studies."

~ Owen McNally, WNPR Jazz Corridor, August 19, 2015

"Whether it was standing up and singing or sitting at the piano, Isabella Mendes played a great mix of music in her songs which were as told through stories lyrically as much as instrumentally."

~ Raised By Gypsies

"...when you can span three generations in that way you know there is something special going on and the live performance only enhances that essence."

~ Raised By Gypsies