

Hanka G

rising star of jazz, gospel & world-music
singer & lyricist

"The best of the next generation!"

Cassandra Wilson

was

born in Slovakia and currently lives in New York. Hanka has been recently signed by OJAH MEDIA GROUP, a label that represents a variety of well-established jazz artists. The agency represents artists such as Cassandra Wilson, the two-time Grammy award winner and the best American jazz singer according to TIME magazine. Hanka has been performing on the international jazz scene for well over a decade now, with her signature musical style of jazz, soul & world-music fusion.

her fascination

with music dates back to her early childhood in Mongolia, where her parents worked as geologists on an expedition. Growing up, Hanka's vocals were tested in different musical genres ranging from rock to funk, until she found her niche while living in Washington D.C. having sang with local jazz musicians who had a profound influence on her future musical direction. Once she returned from the U.S., she used every opportunity to perfect her jazz art until her path crossed with one of the most respected jazz pianists in Slovakia, Gabriel Jonas, who was so impressed with her natural feeling for jazz, that he invited to her to perform with his band.

soon after

she was working with many professional jazz musicians, both on local as well as international

debut album in 2007

Hanka was awarded a grant from the Slovak Music Fund to support the recording of her **debut album "Reflections of my soul"**, which was produced by Radovan Tariska, a well-respected saxophone player

writing skills

For many years, Hanka has been one of the most sought after Slovak jazz singers getting invited for various projects, not only for her vocal ability, but also for her **writing skills converting instrumental tunes into songs**. To name just a few, she has been a special guest in various projects of Stefan Pista Bartus and Nikolaj Nikitin bands, on Sisa Michalide-



Rodney Kendrick *"I've had the opportunity to work with Hanka in Africa and experience her creativeness and richness of spirit... It was an absolute pleasure to work with her and I savor the moment to have the opportunity to do it again."*

Melvin Smith *"She weaves her lush alto voice through any set of changes with grace and ease. Her artistry demands to be heard."*

Andreas Schiffmann *"The woman's voice is worth gold in all positions."* (<http://musikreviews.de>)

Jan Hocek *"One of the most talented jazz singers of the present times. Hanka is not trying to sing jazz – she comes by it naturally. She has vibrant, gospel-filled voice with the vocal power of a Mahalia Jackson."* (<http://jazzport.cz>)

scene, performing in various well-known clubs and music festivals.

of the Slovak jazz scene, who also performs on the album together with other elite musicians – virtuoso jazz pianist Ondrej Krajnak, Tomas Baros on double bass and Marian Sevcik on drums.

sova's album "Expressions". Recently she has started to cooperate with great jazz bassist & composer **Marcus McLaurine**. Currently she is releasing her third solo CD "Twin Flame" paying tribute to celebrated jazz pianists, where she wrote her own lyrics to majority of their instrumental compositions.

also joined

Chris Byars Quartet from New York on their tour of Slovakia in 2013, performed as an opening act for **Matt Bianco** (2011 in Košice, Slovakia), **shared the same stage with Kurt Elling** during his concert in (2014, Bratislava, Slovakia). **In the same year Hanka also opened up for Cassandra Wilson**, which was no doubt one of her most prestigious and memorable performances. In 2014 **joined Rodney Kendrick trio** at major prestigious event **in South Africa**.



2. solo album

In 2014, Hanka was signed by Hevhetia Publishing House and released in July **second solo album** produced by jazz pianist Ondrej Krajnak, who also worked with her on her first CD. **The album is called "Essence"** and it is a **tribute to Slovak folklore songs rearranged into jazzy tunes by Krajňnak creating a very unique fusion**. Only the Slovak & Czech jazz finest worked with her on this album, such as Josef Feco (double bass, cymbalo), Radovan Tariska (alt and soprano saxophone), Marian Sevcik

(drums), Stefan Bugala (percussion), and Ivan Herak's cymbalo band.

In addition to that, **over July, 2014** Hanka went on a **tour in Slovakia, Hungary and Czech Republic performing with a special guest from New York, Eric Wyatt**, an extraordinarily talented tenor saxophone player who belongs to the global top jazz league, a son of the legendary tenor player Charles Wyatt.

3. solo album

In December 2016, Hanka released her third solo album recorded in duo with pianist **Ondrej Krajnak**, who also worked on her previous two CDs. The album is called **"Twin Flame"** and pays tribute to celebrated jazz pianists. Hanka decided to work with selected instrumental tunes written by well-known jazz pianists, vocalized them and wrote her own lyrics. (**Oscar Peterson, Herbie Hancock, Ernest Olah** – famous gipsy Slovak pianist, **Chick Corea, McCoy Tyner, Thelonious Monk, Ondrej Krajnak** and **Mal**

Waldron). At the same time, this album represents the pinnacle of cooperation with one of the Europe best composers-pianists, Ondrej Krajnak originally from Slovakia. The album was named after his original composition **"Twin Flames"**. This name captures the essence of both artists whose music is something like karmic twin flames, representing one soul in two bodies, the exquisite balance between a female and male principle.

U.S.A.

Later in August 2014, Hanka visited the U.S.A. and performed at Arts & Architecture Festival in New Bedford Massachusetts, Ronald McNair Jazz Festival in Brooklyn and prestigious New York jazz clubs like Smalls Jazz Club, Smoke, Zinc Bar, Cleopatra's Needle, Village Under-ground featuring Eric Wyatt Quartet. The band featured **Essiet Okon Essiet on bass, Theo Hill on piano and Shinnosuke Takahashi on drums.**

Hanka re-visited U.S.A. in summer 2015 and performed with many great jazz musicians in New York as well as Philadelphia jazz club scene like **Marc Cary, Anthony Wonsey, Marcus McLaurine,**

Aaron D. James, Charles Turner, Russell Carter, Essiet Okon Essiet, Ron Affif, etc...

Thanks to Ms. **Cassandra Wilson** and representation by **OJAH MEDIA GROUP**, Hanka decided to pursue her career in the U.S.A. and moved to New York in August, 2016 where she currently lives and performs at local jazz scene.

Hanka has her own quartet which features one of the best US jazz musicians such as **Anthony Wonsey** (piano), **Kriss Funn** (bass) and **Taru Alexander** (drums), is a guest vocalist of Anthony Wonsey tentet,

Taru Alexander's quartet, son of the legendary tenor-saxophone player **Roland Alexander**, (**Mamiko Watanabe** – piano, **Gerry Eastman** – bass, **Taru Alexander** – drums) and **regularly performs** at **Smalls Jazz Club NY** and Williamsburg Music Centre in NY.

Hanka is a member and **lead singer** of a choir at **Memorial Baptist Church in Harlem**.

jazz radio stations

One of her major accomplishments while in USA was that **her music has continued to be played on following jazz radio stations:** KCSM.org (San Francisco) DJ Pete Fallico; WPFWfm.org (Washington D.C.) DJ Rusty Hassan & DJ Tim Masters; WHPK.org (Chicago) DJ Lofton A. Emenari; WCLK.com (Atlanta) DJ Jay Edwards; 893WUMD.org (New Bedford Massachutes) DJ Dave Reis; WKCR FM 89.9 (New York) DJ Sharif Abdul Salam; WCDBfm.com 90.9 (New York) DJ Bill McCann; WAMC.org (New York) DJ Tim Coakley.

performed with

Throughout her career, Hanka has worked and performed with many jazz musicians: **Marc Cary, Essiet Okon Essiet, Rodney Kendrick, Anthony Wonsey, Marcus McLaurine, Benito Gonzales, Theo Hill, George Gray, Ron Affif, Patches Stewart, Taru Alexander, Gerry Eastman, Mamiko Watanabe, Carlton Holmes, Kris Funn, John R. Lamkin, Kenny Davis, Mimi Jones, Camille Gainer Jones, Chris Beck, Shedrick Mitchell, Aaron D. James, Russell Carter, Kendrick Scott, Greg Murphy, Eric Wheeler, Rael-Wesley Grant, Chris Byars, Ari Roland, Zaid Nasser, Jure Pukl, Klemens Markl, Dusan Novakov, Gabor Winand, Karel Ruzicka jr., Peter Lipa, Jozef Dodo Sosoka, Ondrej Stveracek, Juraj Griglak, Martin Valihora** and many others...



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