

Darla Rich Jazz

Darla and Rich Tarpinian have been creating music together since they began their musical collaboration in 1995. Along their musical journey together, they have discovered why the songs of Cole Porter, Johnny Mercer, Duke Ellington, Irving Berlin and others have become the standards that have formed the foundation of American jazz and popular music. They specialize in taking a great tune that's proven its worth over time and performing it as though it was written yesterday. They perform a unique mix of vocal and instrumental jazz that appeals to audiences with varied musical tastes.



Darla plays acoustic bass, bass guitar and provides vocals. Born in Northern Kentucky, a family filled with self-taught musicians and singers instilled in Darla a love of music and performing. Her musical roots were heavily grounded in the gospel music she sang in church and classical music she performed with the Cincinnati May Festival Chorus and Cincinnati Symphony in southern Ohio. She toured former Yugoslavia and Soviet Union, Estonia, Hungary, and Italy with the Cincinnati International Touring Chorus. These musical influences gave her the range and flexibility to adapt to other styles of music including the softer sounds of jazz. Darla's interest in the classic movies of the last century gave her an appreciation for the origins of the songs now preserved as jazz classics.

Rich grew up around music. His first instrument was trombone and he began his study with classical guitar at the Crane School of Music in Potsdam, NY. He soon began pursuing jazz, enjoying the complex harmonies, rhythms and improvisation. Rich has been inspired by many players including Jimmy Raney, Joe Pass, Grant Green, Jim Hall, Wes Montgomery and non-guitarists including Blue Mitchell, Lee Morgan, Horace Silver and others. Many local players continue to influence his playing and pursuit of music. As a vocalist, he believes in performing the standards with respect for the rich lyrics and melodies the music provides. A native of Massena, New York, Rich has performed regularly in New Jersey since 1995.

Darla and Rich were married in November, 2000 and live in the Princeton, New Jersey. They perform as "Darla Rich" regularly at various central New Jersey venues in a duo, trio or quartet configuration.
