

The Kurt Weill Project is:
Hilary Gardner vocals
Frank Ponzio piano
Peter Donovan bass
Vito Lesczak drums

"I sing a song about forever, only a song about forever."
"Love Song," Alan Jay Lerner and Kurt Weill

When Kurt Weill came to America, he decided to remake the American musical. He knew he'd need collaborators ("I need poetry to set my imagination in motion") and found the best writers the United States had to offer, including Langston Hughes, Maxwell Anderson, Alan Jay Lerner, and Ira Gershwin. Kurt Weill became one of the most versatile and influential American theater composers of the twentieth century. The Kurt Weill Project was conceived in the spirit of collaboration. United by their musical curiosity and shared love of jazz, pianist Frank Ponzio, bassist Peter Donovan, drummer Vito Lesczak, and vocalist Hilary Gardner embarked on a musical journey through the eclectic, haunting, and deeply human world of Kurt Weill. Unwilling to restrict their creativity to a specific genre, the musicians agreed early on that the music itself should be their guide. Their resulting recording, *A Song About Forever*, explores Weill's music from a jazz perspective, while incorporating the classical, theatrical, and global influences that continue to make Weill's music compelling to listeners from all walks of life.

The group's respect and affection for Kurt Weill and his music is reflected in the name of the group: the Kurt Weill Project. While each member of the group is an accomplished soloist in his or her own right, the real star of *A Song About Forever* is Kurt Weill himself, proving that the Kurt Weill Project is truly more than the sum of its parts.

"Here, those songs are interpreted by a quartet that puts obvious knowledge and love into their performances."

"Her voice is full and expressive"

- Kyle O'Brien, Jazz Society of Oregon

"The instrumentalists are generally laidback rather than forceful. They are exploratory with the music, rarely satisfied to just restate the basic melody."

"A soprano, her voice can be clear or take on a smoky quality and she is particularly effective with sustained tones, with an attractive vibrato she uses judiciously."

- Rob Lester, Talkin' Broadway Sound Advice: A Collection of Collections Singing the Praises of Songwriters