

Sara Caswell | VIOLINIST

Sara Caswell is fast becoming one of today's foremost jazz violinists through her technical facility and gift for lyricism. Recognized as a "Rising Star" in the *DownBeat Magazine* Critics and Readers Polls every year since 2013 and featured on the cover of the September 2014 issue of *Strings Magazine*, Sara leads two groups (the Sara Caswell Quartet and the Caswell Sisters Quintet), has released two highly-acclaimed CDs (*First Song* and *But Beautiful*), and in 2013 released *Alive in the Singing Air* with her sister, jazz vocalist Rachel Caswell, featuring jazz pianist Fred Hersch.

Sara regularly performs with clarinetist David Krakauer's The Big Picture, mandolinist Joseph Brent's 9 Horses, and jazz vocalist Roseanna Vitro's Quintet. She is a member of the house band for NBC's weekly variety show "Maya & Marty" starring Maya Rudolph and Martin Short, as well as the New York Pops Orchestra with whom she has been a featured soloist several times in Carnegie Hall. In addition to touring for two years with 3-time Grammy-winning bassist/vocalist Esperanza Spalding in support of Spalding's 2010 CD *Chamber Music Society*, Sara has toured with singer/songwriter/violinist Kishi Bashi, violinist Mark O'Connor's American String Celebration, and violinist Darol Anger's Four Generations of Jazz Violin. She has performed and/or recorded with such artists as Regina Carter, Jenny Scheinman, Gene Bertoncini, Alan Ferber, Fabian Almazan, Ike Sturm, Nadje Noordhuis, Lynne Arriale, Charlie Byrd, and Skitch Henderson.

Currently on faculty at both the Berklee College of Music and Manhattan School of Music, Sara's formidable teaching experience also includes the Mark O'Connor String Camps, the Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshops, the Indiana University String Academy, and a private studio. She has also given numerous jazz string improvisation workshops and masterclasses and is involved with JEN (Jazz Education Network), MENC (National Association of Music Education), and ASTA (American String Teachers Association).

Raised in a musical family, Sara began playing violin at age 5, studied with two legendary giants (Josef Gingold ~ classical, David Baker ~ jazz), made her orchestral debut at 15, earned degrees from Indiana University and Manhattan School of Music, and amassed over 100 awards in the jazz and classical competition worlds. Jazz educator, author, and critic Dr. Herb Wong said: "*A gifted starbright talent of the first magnitude, Sara is a top tier member of the young generation of major voices.*"