

"Allrich possess[es] a stage presence and vocal range rivaling many of today's jazz divas, but it is her natural ease, contagious sense of joy, and blending of traditional jazz, modern influences, and African heritages that distinguishes her from even many of today's more established performers."

- Franz Matzner AllAboutJazz.com

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AKUA ALLRICH

"Akua Allrich's music flows with a free, natural energy as engaging as her equally ingenuous personality"

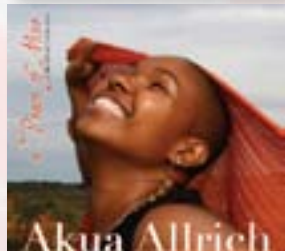
- Franz Matzner *AllAboutJazz.com*

Jazz vocalist and DC-native Akua Allrich has proven herself to be a musician of extraordinary talent and crowd-moving passion. With finesse and charisma, this vocalist, composer and teacher, has successfully etched out a place for her unique musical expression, electrifying audiences in and around the nation's capital with sold-out performances.

With the launch of her independently produced album, *A Peace of Mine*, in 2010, and her latest release *Uniquely Standard*, Akua Allrich Live! in 2012, the young artist's music and concerts created a significant buzz with critics and music-lovers alike. Said Sriram Gopal of the DCist, "Her fluid and graceful voice glides over rhythms that draw upon jazz, reggae, African and R&B influences."

Her appeal has reached across US borders and she has earned international attention. In 2011, Allrich signed a distribution deal with Japanese record label AGATE/Inpartmaint Inc. The CD was released in Japan during their "Golden Week" in May 2011. Music lovers and tastemakers from around the world have expressed their appreciation and excitement at Allrich's new brand of music.

Allrich was educated at Howard University, where she was mentored by some of the best musicians in the business, including drummer/vocalist Grady Tate. Her style is thus fluid and ever evolving. Grounded in jazz and pan-African music, her musical roots run deeply into blues, soul and rhythm and blues. She sings in many languages including Portuguese, French, Spanish, English, Xhosa, and Twi.



Featured Artist at JALC
Doha, Qatar (2015)

Capital Jazz Super Cruise,
featured artist

"Hard to Get" Video
Featured on vh1 Soul &
MTV.com (2013)

Uniquely Standard, Akua
Allrich Live! (Fall 2012)

A Peace of Mine
(US 5/2010) (AGATE, Jpn
5/2011)

Opened for Hugh Masekela
& Larry Willis at Howard
U. Mandela Tribute

"Hard To Get" Debuted at
#5 iTunes Japan



Notable Performances / Venues

Jazz at Lincoln Center - Doha, Qatar
The Hamilton Live - open for Ben Williams
Creative Alliance, The Patterson - Baltimore, MD
Kennedy Center-Millennium Stage
Richmond Jazz Society
Howard Theater - DC - open for Alice Smith
Capitol Jazz Super Cruise
Blues Alley - DC
DC Jazz Festival
Art of Cool Festival 2014 - Durham, NC
Howard U. Mandela trib. feat.
Hugh Masekela & Larry Willis - DC
An Die Musik - Baltimore, MD
w/ Warren Wolf, Christian McBride & friends
Smithsonian Anacostia Museum - DC
Nina Simone Tribute & Miriam Makeba Tribute
Ertegun - Turkish Embassy

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News & Reviews

www.AkuaAllrich.com/album-reviews



“Local star Akua Allrich continued her rapid rise this month performing music from her latest album *Uniquely Standard* (Self Produced, 2012) at the historic Howard Theater on Washington, DC’s U Street. An accomplished vocalist whose vibrant performances and inviting stage presence have built a loyal following and propelled her to the forefront of Washington, DC’s main jazz venues, Allrich’s rise in many ways parallels the resurgence of Washington, DC as a major jazz city, making her debut at the recently reopened Howard Theater both a fitting and symbolically resonant accomplishment...” - *Franz Matzner*



“The vocalist **Akua Allrich** has been attracting attention over the past few years for her emotionally and spiritually charged performances, and a voice imbued with the sensitivity to coax and soar in equal measure.” - *Ken Avis*



“*Uniquely Standard* treats jazz as it should be: recorded as live sets in a club where the audience’s reaction is as integral to the songs as their musical accompaniment. I recently chatted with Allrich about the new album, her take on the local jazz scene in which it’s rooted, and why the classic songs she chose still resonate today...” - *Jenna Makowski*

“**BEST VOCALIST: Akua Allrich** I’ve said it before—if you hear (as you often do) that contemporary jazz seems to be missing soul, it’s because all of the soul of a generation has been concentrated into Akua Allrich.” - *Michael J. West*

“**Akua Allrich** is up to her eyeballs in soul. The woman mines such a deep, rich vein of musical flavor that not only do the musicians around her fade into invisibility when she sings, most of the other singers in town do, too—even when they’re just sitting at home. Much of the power is purely in her voice, a fearsome, visceral thing that fills the room as soon as it begins.” - *Michael J. West*



“Akua Allrich has a warm and sassy delivery, not unlike a young Aretha Franklin, and uses her voice in a flexible way that includes drops, falls and growls almost like an old school trumpet player...” - *George W. Harris*

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“Akua Allrich’s smile alone could light up any room, but add to that a rich and soulful voice with impeccable taste in material, and you get one of D.C.’s most dynamic vocalists. Her considerable talents are on full display with her latest album, *Uniquely Standard*, whose release Allrich will celebrate with a show tonight at the venerable Howard Theatre ...” - *Sriram Gopal, DCist*



Check out this awesome review of Akua’s sophomore album by C. Michael Bailey of allaboutjazz.com “... Billy Strayhorn’s “Lush Life” is beautifully elegant and a sharp juxtaposition to the carnal “Afro Blue.” The contrast is as dizzying as it is brilliant. Allrich has the chops to sing whatever she wants, and further proves it on a bonfire “Black Coffee.”



Check out this awesome review of Akua’s performance at the Turkish ambassador’s residence, for the Ertegun Jazz Series, by Examiner.com! “... vocalist Akua (pronounced Ah-kwee-ya) Allrich made her way to the Embassy stage like a queen approaching her throne. Her megawatt smile served as an unspoken introduction; it was clear that joy radiated from deep inside her and her voice journeyed from that space ... she, and all that she embodied, was standing in the music room of the Turkish Embassy Residence as an ambassador of jazz. Beautiful...”



Check out Akua in DC Magazine with Charles Fishman! Said DC Magazine, “Akua Allrich is something of a doctor of soul. Once headed into the field of medicine, the Howard University graduate veered away from science to pursue music. The choice has paid off. Dubbed “the next big thing” by Charles Fishman, who founded the DC Jazz Festival, the jazz vocalist isn’t just a rising star. She’s a skyrocket...”
www.modernluxury.com/dc

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Biography

Jazz vocalist and DC-native Akua Allrich has proven herself to be a musician of extraordinary talent and crowd-moving passion. With finesse and charisma, this vocalist, composer and teacher, has successfully etched out a place for her unique musical expression, electrifying audiences in and around the nation's capital with sold-out performances.

The launching of her freshman album, *A Peace of Mine*, and second album, *Uniquely Standard, Akua Allrich Live!* the young artist's music and concerts created a significant buzz with critics and music-lovers alike. Said Franz Matzner of All About Jazz, "Akua Allrich's music flows with a free, natural energy as engaging as her equally ingenuous personality." Her appeal soon reached across US borders and attained international attention. In early

2011, Allrich signed a distribution deal with Japanese record label AGATE/Inpartmant Inc.

With a stellar line up of musicians, Akua's newest release *Soul Singer*, presents the artist in a whole new light, highlighting her talent for composition as well as her ability to merge different sounds & genres into one complete beautiful musical experience!

Allrich's style is fluid and ever evolving. Her musical roots run deeply into blues, soul and rhythm and blues, with a clear grounding in jazz and pan-African music. She sings in many languages including Portuguese, French, Spanish, English, Xhosa, and Twi. Given her ability to capture the essence of a broad range of musical genres, Allrich is often likened to legendary artists such as Oscar Brown, Jr., Miriam Makeba, Bob Marley and Nina Simone. She has developed popular tribute programs involving the latter two women and other great African American women of jazz.

Akua Allrich was educated at Howard University, where she obtained her BM in jazz vocals and a master's degree in social work. She was taught, coached and mentored by talented musicians such as world-renowned singer Kehembe V. Eichelberger, singer/drummer Grady Tate, and pianist Charles Covington.

She is the child of a musical family (her father, Agyei Akoto, was a founding member of the jazz group, Nation, and recorded two albums during Allrich's youth). Her home held a wealth of cherished recordings that she and her siblings were invited to explore. In fact, she did not buy any albums until her second year in college because her parents had such an amazing collection of jazz records. One of the first jazz albums she bought was John Coltrane's *Live at the Village Vanguard: The Master Takes*.

Allrich has already proven her abilities as a performer and bandleader by producing and performing many successful solo and group programs. In addition to focusing on her own engaging compositions, she keeps an ear to the rest of the world and to other eras and artists. Akua Allrich has inspired music lovers from all walks on an international scale, who enjoy her exceptional work and expect nothing short of brilliant artistry from each of her offerings.

