

# [PR] Retro Jazz vocalist Laura Ainsworth's latest album is on sale in Japan

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*Original Japanese article written by Hiroki Sugita*

Laura Ainsworth is a Dallas, Texas-based female jazz vocalist. Dressed in elbow-length gloves and beaded gowns, Laura's three-octave voice fuses a modern, sophisticated sense with a graceful retro style, the latter of which recalls classic nightclub singers of the 1940s–50s. She calls her style "New Vintage".

Her father, the late Billy Ainsworth, was child prodigy who played sax and clarinet, in addition to being a singer and a composer. The elder Ainsworth became a member of the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra when he was only 17 years old. Laura spent her childhood watching her father performing with prominent vocalists such as Ella Fitzgerald and Tony Bennett. At the same time, she listened to excellent jazz and big bands, and was a fan of singers such as Keely Smith, Doris Day, Julie London, Margaret Whiting and Rosemary Clooney. She also absorbed a sense of humor from musical comediennes, and developed her skills as an actress and singer.

Laura loved American Standards, and performed in choirs and musicals in her high school years. After high school, she created jingles at a commercial music production company by day, and performed in musical theatre in the evenings. She starred in the musical *The King and I*, and also wrote and staged a one-woman theater production. After that, she decided to begin working as a jazz vocalist in order to preserve the music she grew up hearing her father play.

2011's *Keep It to Yourself* was Laura's first album, and her debut as a jazz singer. She has released three studio albums so far, the other two being *Necessary Evil* (2013) and *New Vintage* (2017). What the three albums have in common is a sensibility toward casting light on great older songs that are lesser-known, rather than remaining biased toward well-known standards. "My favorite thing is finding obscure old songs I want to revive for a new audience, the way Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald did in the '50s," she says. Laura's work as a singer never wavers from this well-defined policy. She won an unprecedented three-award sweep of the 2018 AMG Heritage Awards for Female Vocalist, Album and Video of the Year.

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*Top Shelf*, Laura's first LP, is a compilation of 10 tracks from the three above-mentioned studio albums. The album came out in the United States in 2017, and is now on sale as her debut album in Japan. The album includes tracks such as: "Love For Sale," which starts with the rare introductory verse, and is sung in a slow tempo that differs from regular renditions; "An Occasional Man," with its fun Latin arrangement; "Necessary Evil," which recalls an old fashioned diva backed by a big band; the bluesy "Just Give Me a Man," which features accompaniment by a tenor sax-fronted quartet; and Frank Loesser's "That's How I Got My Heart", with features the clarinet as lead instrument. Even seasoned vocal jazz fans will find something new in this album.

180-gram heavyweight vinyl, audiophile mastering, MP3 download card included.

## Album Details

### Laura Ainsworth *Top Shelf*

■ **A:** ① Love For Sale ② An Occasional Man ③ Necessary Evil ④ Just Give Me A Man  
 ⑤ Hooray For Love    **B:** ① That's How I Got My Start ② Out Of This World ③ That's The Kind Of  
 Guy I Dream Of ④ Wasting My Love On You ⑤ Skylark

■ **Personnel:** Laura Ainsworth (vo), Brian Piper (key), John Adams (b), Mike Drake (ds), Steve Barnes (per),  
 Chris McGuire (ts,cl), Pete Brewer (fl), Rodney Booth (tp), Chris Derose-Chiffolo (g), Milo Deering (vln),  
 Dana Dudborough (vib)

■ Eclectus Records ER1004

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