

Denise Brigham



HOTEL LAFAYETTE



About Denise

Denise Brigham is a popular Chicago area entertainer who has performed in many of the area's best nightclubs. In addition to doing her own show she has also worked with many other top Midwest artists, big bands and orchestras. Her deep and powerful voice and her modern renditions of many great classics has helped her build a strong fan base and gain critical acclaim. Now with her first major album finished she will be performing concerts and realizing her lifelong dream. But it wasn't always this way.

Denise's story is as special and inspiring as this project is. From her earliest childhood memories she had always dreamed of being a singer, but was never allowed to pursue those dreams. Whenever she tried she was harshly discouraged and mercilessly teased by her schoolmates. She quickly came to believe what others said and only sang her heart out in private. She would wait until her mother left the house so she could secretly dress up in gowns too big for her and sing to records using a salt shaker as a pretend microphone; but always

keeping an eye out the window so she could quickly hide everything when she saw her mother walking back down the block. As time went by she did what she was told to do and became a secretary, got married, and raised a family. She believed that was all in life she could ever do, but through all of this she never stopped singing, although it was always hidden behind closed doors where no one could hear her. She had no self esteem and believed she had no talent.

But that all changed just a few short years ago. Denise's husband had heard her singing behind those closed doors and when he learned it had been her lifelong dream he secretly arranged to have a local restaurant owner who always serenades his guests invite her up to sing with him in his restaurant one night. She almost fainted, but they got her to do it and she was an instant hit. After that they started going to karaoke bars where everyone always complimented and encouraged her. Eventually she was offered the chance to become a backup singer in another entertainer's nightclub show, and after doing that for six months her husband helped her start her own show and got her booked into numerous clubs. Over the next few years her show did quite well, but it is a very competitive and tough business and there were many difficult times as well. Finally in August of 2006 Denise was invited to a CD release party by a friend where she met some of the City's top professional musicians and people in the industry. Nine months later Denise and her agent decided it was time to record a new album and they contacted Carey Deadman who she had met at the party to see if he would write the arrangements. Carey is widely considered Chicago's top arranger and producer, but he told them he really wasn't interested in doing a small project in a suburban home studio with a 6 piece band as had been proposed. They would have to find someone else. Six weeks went by and then suddenly Carey called back one day. He said he had since listened to samples of Denise's show and after hearing her sing and seeing what type of music she wanted to record he would like to talk.

Labor day of 2007 Denise and her husband met Carey at a Starbucks and he shocked them. He explained that he thought there was a great potential here, but only if it was done right. He said in addition to writing the arrangements he wanted to take over as the project producer and record the album in the city's top studio with a real orchestra. He would take care of everything involved in the production process and bring in the city's best professionals to support the project. Denise couldn't believe what she was hearing; her greatest childhood dream was really going to come true!

With "HOTEL LAFAYETTE" now finished Denise will start performing concerts at theaters in the Midwest with a band assembled and led by Carey. At a point in life where most people have long given up their fantasies she is now living hers.

About The Project

Producer Carey Deadman is not used to doing things in a small way, and to say he is a perfectionist is a strong understatement. With Carey in charge word of this project quickly spread throughout Chicago's professional music community and before long both studios and musicians were all vying to be part of it. This was one of the largest scale album projects done here in a long time so it quickly got everyone's attention. Initial work started with production planning meetings in the Fall of 2007. Like any large project there were numerous delays because of changes or schedule interruptions, but recording finally started with two "test" songs done in May of 2008. From there actual album recording began in July and was finally completed after a series of individual sessions in January of 2009. Although it ran way behind schedule and over budget "HOTEL LAFAYETTE", named after the hotel where "The Cincinnati Kid" was filmed, as been well worth the wait. As one industry insider who heard a sneak preview said, "Just beautiful, Denise! 5 stars!!!"



Producer/Arranger Carey Deadman

Perhaps the busiest and certainly the best in Chicago. Carey began his career touring with Frank Sinatra and later Frank's son, and after settling in Chicago formed his own company "Real Horns" to do production work. He is an integral part of Nederlander and Live Nation's "Broadway In Chicago" working with many of the hit plays they bring to the city and is currently with "Jersey Boys". In addition to performing he is constantly busy writing and arranging for a host of other theater projects that also include the famous Drury Lane Theatres and several large universities.

In 2006 Carey was called in to take over as producer of Tony Andriacchi's album "At Long Last" when it ran into production problems. This was also a large scale production and one that he would later use as a template for Denise's album two years later. Ironically it was during Tony's CD release party where he first met

Denise, not knowing what would lie in the near future. Now that "HOTEL LAFAYETTE" is finished his next project is working on several new arrangements for Whitney Houston.

In addition to his writing skills Carey also happens to be one of the best horn players in the city and heads up Denise's band when she performs in concert. At her request he personally performed the trumpet and flugel horn solos in "The Cincinnati Kid", the lead song from "HOTEL LAFAYETTE"

The Team

When he took on this project Carey said he would assemble the best team in Chicago and he did exactly that. At the outset he brought in Jeremy Kahn, pianist for Chicago's hit play "Wicked" and one of the best jazz artists in the city to assist in doing all of the reharmonization work while Carey began writing the arrangements. When recording sessions began he hand picked the musicians for each phase from the best professional talent in town, most of whom also worked in the hit plays "Wicked" or "Jersey Boys".

To conduct the orchestra sessions Carey chose Colin Welford. Colin is a graduate of Oxford and the Royal College of Music and is the music director for "Wicked" and assistant music director for Broadway's "The Lion King". Having worked together before they make an excellent team which also made for very smooth studio sessions.

Finally the job of managing all of the technical aspects of the recording studios and the person in charge of the control room and all editing and mixing was given to Chief Engineer Chris Steinmetz. Chris has worked with legendary producer Phil Ramone and mixed albums for a who's who list of top entertainers including Madonna, Koko Taylor, B.B. King and Rod Stewart with his first American Songbook album. Not only is Chris a genius at the controls and absolutely brilliant in mixing and mastering, he also provided great advice on many parts of the album from the experience he's learned working on others.



The Studios

You can't record a project of this size in just any studio. All but the string sessions were done at the multi-million dollar Chicago Recording Company, the city's top studio. CRC as it is known has not only the facility but also the equipment that others can only dream of. From the massive SSL-6064e consoles linked to Mac's running Pro Tools software to the incredible microphone library, home to AKG C-12's worth \$25,000 each, no one else in the Midwest has anything that can compare. Most important though is that because of the quality of the equipment CRC also attracts the best engineers, and they are the real key to a truly successful production. This is why their client list is one of the most impressive in the business.

Up the expressway a little way from CRC is Tone Zone Studios where the strings were recorded. Although this a much smaller building than CRC it has a unique design and acoustics that work perfectly for this kind of sound. It's large main studio accommodates a sizable string section with ease and the high ceilings and bigger floor area also allowed for placing extra microphones to record in surround sound for a possible special edition release. Tone Zone is very popular among jazz musicians in Chicago where the large studios of CRC aren't needed, and they have a wall of fame in the main hallway to prove it.

Using two different studios like these is just one more way to see the great level of detail and perfection that Denise's production team went to in creating this album.



Colin Welford and the strings at Tone Zone Studios



Engineer Chris Steinmetz in the control room at CRC

For further information, videos, pictures, media kits and press releases please visit Denise's website at:

www.denisebrigham.com

Contact Information:

Denise Brigham, Inc.

**129 Red Cedar Drive
Streamwood, IL. 60107**

Ph: 630.567.0567

**Skype: adrian.brigham
agent@denisebrigham.com**