

Caroll Vanwelden

SINGER · PIANIST · COMPOSER · GHENT, BELGIUM

Caroll Vanwelden is a Belgian singer, pianist and composer from Ghent, known for her distinctive ability to weave together poetry, emotion and sound into a refined and deeply personal musical language. Blending elements of jazz, chanson and classical music with cinematic textures, her work transcends genres while remaining intimate, expressive and timeless.

Her artistic journey began at the age of seven, when she started studying classical piano. From an early age, she showed a remarkable affinity for both music and mathematics — two disciplines that would shape her way of thinking and creating. This duality between structure and intuition continues to define her artistic voice today.

Alongside her academic path, Caroll pursued advanced musical training, studying with renowned Belgian jazz artist David Linx and acclaimed American vocalist Judy Niemack. After completing her engineering degree at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, she chose to fully dedicate herself to music, continuing her studies at the Conservatory of Ghent before being accepted into the prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. There, she completed her postgraduate studies with distinction, graduating magna cum laude.

Over the years, Caroll has developed a rich and diverse discography. Her albums *Colours*, *Cheek to Cheek*, *Don't Explain* and *Portraits of Brazil* showcase her versatility as an artist, moving between jazz standards, Brazilian influences and original compositions. Each project reflects her refined musicality, sensitivity to text and strong sense of atmosphere.

A defining milestone in her career is the *Sings Shakespeare Sonnets* trilogy — a unique and ambitious body of work in which she transforms Shakespeare's sonnets into contemporary jazz compositions. Across three albums, she breathes new life into the Bard's poetry, translating its rhythm, emotion and meaning into music while preserving the integrity of the original texts. This project received international recognition and established her as an artist with a singular artistic vision.

With her latest project, *Shakespeare Revisited*, Caroll opens a new chapter in her creative journey. Moving beyond jazz, she reimagines the sonnets in a more contemporary, cinematic sound world — blending piano, voice, subtle electronics and modern production. The music evolves from intimate, almost whispered moments into expansive emotional landscapes, making Shakespeare's words resonate with today's listener in a fresh and immediate way.

At the heart of Caroll Vanwelden's work lies a profound commitment to storytelling. Whether performing solo or with an ensemble, she invites her audience into a space where language, music and emotion merge seamlessly. Her voice — both fragile and powerful — carries the listener through themes of love, doubt, longing and transformation, revealing the timeless relevance of the texts she interprets.

"She does not simply set poetry to music; she reimagines it, allowing centuries-old words to live again — not as distant literature, but as something deeply human, intimate and present."

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