



Speaker Biographies

Maysa Leak Jazz Vocalist and Mother

Renowned jazz vocalist, Maysa Leak was born in Baltimore, Maryland. She began singing when she was a 3-year-old, using the coffee table as her stage and demanding that family and friends be her audience. Years later her drive to perform turned into an audition for Stevie Wonder. Blown away by the performance, Wonder asked Maysa to work on his next project, the Jungle Fever Movie Soundtrack. Soon after that happened, the winds of change, and a transatlantic phone audition, carried Maysa to London to be the lead vocalist for an acid-jazz band called Incognito. For several years, Maysa sang for the band, achieving international success.

During a performance in Japan when Maysa was six month's pregnant, her water broke while she was on stage. She had to be rushed to the hospital where she gave birth 15 weeks early. Maysa's baby, aptly named Jazz, suffered complications from prematurity, including complications from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Now she is helping to raise awareness about RSV risks and prevention in order to help new mothers learn about the disease. Maysa's heart-wrenching story is an inspiration for mothers.

Maysa has released three solo albums. The third album "Out of the Blue" is dedicated to her son. She is again working with Incognito and will begin touring with them this year while promoting her fourth album, "Smooth Sailing", due out this fall.