



SHEILA JORDAN *Sheila Jordan Valentine's Day Concert and Workshop February 14 & 15, 2009.*
Tickets on sale at www.ticketweb.ca



Born in 1928, Sheila Jordan was raised in poverty in Pennsylvania's coal-mining country. She began singing as a child and by the time she was in her early teens was working semi-professionally in Detroit clubs. Her first great influence was Charlie Parker and most of her influences have been instrumentalists rather than singers. As a member of the vocal trio, Skeeter, Mitch And Jean (she was Jean), she sang versions of Parker's solos in a manner akin to that of the later Lambert, Hendricks And Ross. After moving to New York in the early 50s, she married Parker's pianist, Duke Jordan, and studied with Lennie Tristano, but it was not until the early 60s that she made her first recordings. In the mid-60s her work encompassed jazz liturgies sung in churches and extensive club work, but her appeal was narrow even within the confines of jazz. By the late 70s jazz audiences had begun to understand her uncompromising style and her popularity increased - as did her appearances on record, which included albums with pianist Steve Kuhn, whose quartet she joined, and an album entitled *Home*, which featured a selection of Robert Creeley's poems set to music. 1983's *Old Time Feeling* was followed by 1990's *Lost And Found*, an album that pays tribute to her bebop roots. Jordan has several unique musical trademarks, such as the frequent and unexpected sweeping changes of pitch, which still tend to confound an uninitiated audience. www.sheilajordanjazz.com