

# Anita Eccleston's More Trumpet has plenty of voice

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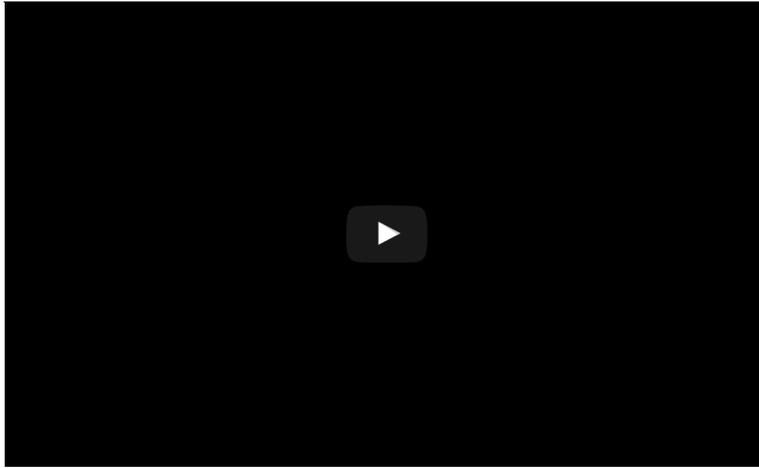
Vancouver's Anita Eccleston believes that trumpet almost always makes everything better. — Tamea Burd Photography *SUBMITTED*  
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[Anita Eccleston](http://www.anitaeccleston.com/) (<http://www.anitaeccleston.com/>) rode into town from Kamloops with her trusty trumpet at her side. With a Trio EP and the album *So It Goes* under her belt, the trumpeting vocalist just finished up work on her third release. Titled *More Trumpet*, the album finds her working through classics from the jazz songbook in a trio with no drums.

**Anita Eccleston: More Trumpet CD release**

**Dec. 18, 8 p.m.** | *Kino Cafe*

**Tickets:** at the door



Eccleston talked about the album, her players Andrew Smith (guitar and vocals), Graham Clark (bass) and Doug Gorkoff (cello) as well as the reason for the title and more.

**Q:** More Trumpet is the title of the new album. But I'm hearing a lot of singing. Explain?

**A:** It's called More Trumpet for several reasons. The most prominent reason is because I am actually playing a whole lot more trumpet on it than on my previous releases. When I finished at McGill I simply wasn't quite good enough at improvising to get booked right away as a trumpet-playing vocalist, so my first gigs were singing trad jazz at a sushi resto/bar in Montreal. I sang every week, which forced me to compile my extensive vocal jazz repertoire book. As my career has progressed, I've been able to express myself more and more through my trumpet, as an extension of my voice. Another reason is that I am a firm (if not slightly biased) believer that trumpet almost always makes everything better. Also, I've been known to shout out "MORE TRUMPET!!!" at concerts.

**Q:** Do you find the type of trumpet lines you favour wind up being mirrored in your vocal style?

**A:** In a way, though it's kind of the reverse. I've always been the type of improviser that doesn't try to hit ALL the notes; I like to play lyrical, melodic lines that land on the choice notes to create a natural tension and release. After hearing me perform, an audience member once said to me, "I can tell you're influenced by Chet Baker — only where he used to sing like he would play, you play the way you sing."

**Q:** This album has a non-standard no drummer trio with cello, bass and guitar. Is it just annoying to have to be heard over the dang drummer sometimes?

**A:** That question cracks me up! The truth is, if you have the right drummer it's not a problem hearing yourself, especially with the exceptional interplay and sensitivity jazz drummers bring to the band. I love having a drummer when I can afford them; they kick my show up a notch in intensity and allow me to play all the fun mixed-genre repertoire I've built up over the years. My nine-piece band had a total blast at the Vancouver Jazz Fest this past year. Yet there is a sweet intimacy of sound that going without a drummer brings to my current jazz project. The driving rhythmic instrument in jazz is always the bass regardless, so he's the guy I'm listening to the hardest.

**Q:** Besides this band, how many others do you have on the go?

**A:** I play with Las Estrellas (all female) Mariachi de Vancouver, as a sideman trumpeter, which is a blast and totally unique. Other than that, I really keep my focus on leading my own band, whether it's the small drumless combo (2-4 pieces) or a larger band (5-18 piece). It's a goal of mine to establish a big band in the future, with strings, so actually a jazz orchestra of sorts. I love arranging for large ensembles.

**Q:** Are you a little or a lotta jazz?

**A:** Can I be both? Jazz is in my blood, it pervades everything I do. Jazz is about freedom and expression. I think it is transcendent. So maybe I'm a whole lotta jazz.

**Q:** Do you still play rock too?

**A:** Oh yeah baby! Though not as quite often as I'd like to. Yet even as a duo, Andrew and I often

tend to rock out during our late sets on our monthly gig at the Kino. My iPod playlists are still a wildly eclectic mix, ranging from Radiohead to Björk, Tool to Jeff Buckley, Leonard Cohen to Fiona Apple, Jimi Hendrix to Elliot Smith, and amazing local acts like The Living and Brasstronaut. I'm all over the place in my tastes and delight in hitting shuffle on my iPod, just waiting for Sibelius to pop up.

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