

For Immediate Release  
February 8, 2010

## **American Idol-Style Contest on San Francisco's #1 Radio Show Finds Hot New Local Talent. Huge Vote Overwhelms Station's Phone System.**

The "Best Music You've Never Heard" is Illana Zauderer Parker's *Hot in Here*, the title track of her vocal jazz album and winner of KGO's annual music competition on the Ronn Owens Program, Northern California's number one radio show, on Friday, February 5th. Thirty-five tracks by local musicians were selected from hundreds of entries and aired briefly before listeners called to choose their favorite. Parker's track drew raves from the hosts and won the listener vote with an unexpectedly high turnout. The station received 1300 calls per second at the peak of voting, shutting down its phone system twice during the tally.

Owens and music critic Brad Kava took turns introducing local musicians who "ought to be famous but aren't" and said of Parker's sultry jazz rendition, "I love it...play a little more of that, could you? She's got a voice-and-a-half." Listeners agreed and jammed the station's phone lines, crashing its system in their attempt to vote. The frustrated hosts explained the problem as engineers repaired the system and voting continued. At final count, Parker's track swept the competition.

Parker, born and raised in Cupertino, studied music at Stanford and has performed throughout the Bay Area and New York City. Her self-produced 2008 album, *Hot in Here*, is a sophisticated and sensual mixture of Broadway and jazz, and includes instrumentals by Bay Area favorites Mike Greensill, Ruth Davies, and Tommy Kesecker. Despite her critical acclaim as "Best Broadway Female Vocalist" in the Bay Area's Cabaret 2000 competition and "One of Off-Broadway's Most Promising Talents" in Playbill Magazine, her album had been largely unheard.

The "Best Music You've Never Heard" contest was founded by the late KGO-TV anchor Pete Wilson to showcase local musicians who should be famous but aren't. "These are people who don't have record labels," Kava said. "The contest was Pete's way of helping them get their name out on the biggest radio station in the Bay Area. We're kind of the American Idol of San Francisco."

Since Wilson's untimely death in 2007, Award-Winning Host Ronn Owens has hosted the competition on his #1 rated show, increasing its exposure. The contest has no connection to television's American Idol other than the similarity of formats.

KGO is the most listened-to radio station in Northern California, and The Ronn Owens Program is its #1 show. Owens has hosted the show for 35 years and received numerous awards, including being named one of the Top 25 Greatest Radio Talk Show Hosts of All Time by Talkers Magazine.

Illana Zauderer Parker will perform this Sunday, February 14, 2010 at 5pm at a benefit concert for the Community Congregational Church in Tiburon, 145 Rock Hill Drive. Her album is available at [illanazauderer.com](http://illanazauderer.com) and [cdbaby.com](http://cdbaby.com).

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