MORE GREAT WOMEN SINGERS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

WEEK #1 – APRIL 9

ELLA FITZGERALD – The ‘First Lady of Song;’ the standard bearer to which every other singer has aspired when interpreting the Great American Songbook: Gershwin, Berlin, Arlen, Ellington, Rodgers and Hart and Mercer. This special documentary: “THE FIRST LADY OF SONG,” is based on a full exclusive interview done with Ella at her home in 1985. It is hosted by Nancy Wilson.

WEEK #2 – APRIL 16

JUDY GARLAND – “THE CONCERT YEARS” is a program hosted by Judy’s daughter, Lorna Luft, illustrating what an electrifying performer her mother was. In spite of the many trials in her life, Judy’s on stage delivery was second to none. Though she only lived to the age of 47, she left a legacy that will not soon be forgotten.

WEEK #3 – APRIL 23

NANCY WILSON – Many things contributed to the success of Nancy Wilson’s career: her ability to combine vocal refinement, elegance and emotional sincerity. She was capable of transmitting all of those elements to jazz, r&b, pop blues, cabaret and gospel. We see and hear Nancy Wilson, in performance at Carnegie Hall.

WEEK #4 – APRIL 30

BILLIE HOLIDAY – Known, affectionately, within the world of jazz as “Lady,” to other parts of the world: “Lady Day.” She was truly one of the greatest all female jazz singers. Billie lived her life the way she wanted, dying at the age of 44. “THE MANY FACES OF BILLIE HOLIDAY” is an award winning documentary that does not dwell upon the dark side; most importantly, we begin to understand why she is considered to be the inventor modern jazz singing.

WEEK #5 – MAY 7

PEGGY LEE – Peggy came a long way from her North Dakota roots. Her early popularity started with Benny Goodman, morphing into Peggy, the songwriter, the actor and one of the most captivating singers of the century. We’ll see a documentary on the life of Peggy Lee.
WEEK #6 – MAY 14

ANITA O’DAY - Anita, who hailed from Chicago said, all she ever wanted to be was a jazz singer. She succeeded, becoming one of the greatest of her time. Like Billie Holiday, she lived her life the way she wanted.
In “ANITA O’DAY – THE LIFE OF A JAZZ SINGER,” we see her in showcase performances that date back to the 40’s with Gene Krupa, Roy Eldridge, Stan Kenton, Louis Armstrong and others.

WEEK #7 – MAY 21

“DIANNE REEVES – LIVE IN MONTREAL” captures the essence of this truly remarkable performer. In her words: “Music should have no boundaries” and Reeves sets out to prove her point by showcasing selections from artists as diverse as Mongo Santamaria and Joni Mitchell. As was the case with Nancy Wilson, Dianne’s strength is in jazz, r&b and gospel. However, she takes it a step further by covering African, Brazilian and Caribbean.

MAY 28 – HOLIDAY – NO CLASS

WEEK #8 – JUNE 4

DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER - Dee Dee is another of the newer contemporary singers who is stretching the boundaries of conventional singing by incorporating sounds as she hears them. Her roots are solidly with the masters: Ella and Billie, but, also, with the horns and percussive rhythms from the past and today. She is a Tony and Grammy award winner.
We see her, in performance: “THE MUSIC OF KURT WEILL – LIVE AT THE NORTH SEA JAZZ FESTIVAL.”