

Innovative Vocalist and Composer Jacqui Naylor Returns to SFJAZZ Center for Six Shows March 22-24 with Her 12th Album

International Jazz Artist Jacqui Naylor Performs Six Shows at SFJAZZ Center March 22-24 Launching Seven Country Tour for New 12th Album "Treasures of the Heart"

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, USA, March 22, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Captivating vocalist and composer [JACQUI NAYLOR](#) performs six concerts with her quartet March 22nd through March 24th 2024 at San Francisco's famed SFJAZZ Center in celebration of her 12th album [TREASURES OF THE HEART](#). The concerts mark the start of Naylor's seven-country tour in support of her new album.

Naylor is one of the most innovative vocalists on the scene today. Her albums are not easy to characterize, taking listeners on unexpected adventures with songs flavored with jazz, R&B, soul, and pop. The prolific recording artist, singer, and composer is releasing her 12th album, TREASURES OF THE HEART, comprising four re-imaginings of well-known jazz and pop standards and 10 original compositions penned by Naylor and her husband, pianist and arranger ART KHU.

Naylor is based in San Francisco and has headlined at esteemed venues and festivals throughout the world, including Monterey Jazz Festival, Jazz Aspen Snowmass, London's Ronnie Scott's, and the Blue Note in New York, Milan, and Tokyo. She follows her SFJAZZ shows with tours in Portugal, Germany, France, Belgium, Canada, and the Bahamas.



Vocalist and Composer Jacqui Naylor. She performs at SFJAZZ with her quartet March 22-24, 2024. Photo by Thomas Heinser.

Naylor is joined on TREASURES OF THE HEART by an extremely tight, top-notch band that has worked together for over a decade. They include Khu, who plays piano, organ, guitar, Rhodes, and celeste. In addition to his many music credits on 11 of Naylor's albums, Khu has worked with Donald Byrd, Idina Menzel, and other notable artists. He also composed a symphony for the Oakland Symphony. Also on board is Naylor's long-time bass player RICHIE GOODS, who toured and recorded with Mulgrew Miller for nine years and has worked with a who's who of jazz and pop artists, including Lenny White, Russell Malone, Chris Botti, Christina Aguilera, and Whitney Houston. Naylor, who is known for her ability to interpret a diverse repertoire and bring together music from different genres and generations, enlisted two younger but very experienced players for this recording: drummer and percussionist ELÉ HOWELL, a former student of Khu's whose credits include Ravi Coltrane and Christian Scott, and trumpet and flugelhorn player ERIK JEKABSON, whose credits include Phil Woods, Benny Golson, and Tito Puente.

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Playing with these exceptional musicians over many years allows us to create music that is dynamic, sensitive, and always evolving. We can be spontaneous, making music that is a Treasure of the Heart.”

Jacqui Naylor

TREASURES of the HEART

Jacqui Naylor



"Treasures of the Heart" New 12th Album by Jacqui Naylor. Digital single available March 22 on all streaming platforms. Album available April 26 2024 online, in stores. and at all live shows including early copies of the CD at SFJAZZ March 22-24. Coming soon on vinyl.

Naylor has been a practicing Buddhist for 30 years and took the album title from The Three Kinds of Treasure, a letter written in 1277 by Nichiren, a Japanese Buddhist monk and scholar. "More valuable than treasures in a storehouse are the treasures of the body, and the treasures of the heart are the most valuable of all."

Through her original compositions and soulful interpretations of jazz and pop songs, Naylor sets out to capture the essence of Nichiren's message by creating uplifting music about life's most meaningful treasures. The title song, "Treasures of the Heart," a funky, soul-jazz original penned by Naylor and Khu, summarizes the

album's theme. "I found joy when only dark clouds came to call / I felt springtime when the leaves began to fall / In the sunshine and the rain / In the joy inside the pain / Joy is a treasure of the heart."

Naylor's groove-based vocals and smoky sound have a subtle, intimate quality that conveys emotional depth. She draws you in with gentle intensity on love songs like "All That We Could Be," "Walk Out in the Sun," and "Love in Springtime," but she utilizes her powerful range on the blues and funk of "We'll Shine Through" and "Love's Around." "You're the One for Me" has a '60s Motown feel, while "Happy Adventure" gives a joyful nod to '70s disco.

Naylor and Khu wrote "Picture Book of You" for one of their fans who asked them to write a love song for his wife. He sent them a note listing qualities he loves about her, noting he thinks about her and their life together in pictures. The result is this lovely, Calypso-inflected tune with sweet lyrics like, "And though I never doubt what our love is about / I love to reminisce / Fine art in Florence, you by waters in spring / The day we exchanged our rings." Even the darkest tune, "Hold On," which Naylor and Khu wrote for a friend suffering from depression, has a message of hope.

Khu's imaginative interpretations and Naylor's distinctive renderings of the covers take well-known tunes and transform them. "I Didn't Know What Time It Was," has an Afro-Cuban feel with layered percussion, while "True Colors," a pop anthem made famous by Cyndi Lauper, is turned into a spacious, gospel-tinged love song. Naylor is known for a technique she coined, "acoustic smashing," where she sings the lyrics and melody of a jazz standard over the groove of a well-known rock anthem or vice versa. You can hear it at the end of "Lovely Day," where she sings some of the lyrics and melody of "Over the Rainbow" on the outro. She sings Burt Bacharach's "This Guy's in Love with You" in a classic jazz trio setting, adding a pensive turn at the song's end.

Jacqui Naylor's distinctive voice has earned her legions of fans worldwide. She appears on all the streaming platforms, with some songs streamed over 5 million times on Spotify alone. Her albums consistently make exclusive "top-ten" lists, and her music has been featured in ad campaigns, television shows, and films, including a full-length documentary made about her.



Jazz Vocalist & Composer Jacqui Naylor. Photo by Thomas Heinser

TREASURES OF THE HEART is another showcase for Naylor's splendid, sensitive, and surprising vocals. The music is diverse, the musicianship first-rate, and her compositions with Art Khu are well-crafted and heartfelt.

WHO: vocalist and composer Jacqui Naylor with Art Khu piano, Richie Goods bass, and Josh Jones drums

WHAT: live and livestreamed performances celebrating Jacqui Naylor's 12th album "Treasures of the Heart". Single out March 22. Album out April 26. Early copies available at all concerts

WHERE: SFJAZZ Center Joe Henderson Lab 201 Franklin Street San Francisco, CA 94102, www.SFJAZZ.org, 415.920.5299

WHEN: Friday March 22nd at 7pm and 8:30pm | Saturday March 23rd at 7pm and 8:30pm | Sunday March 24th at 6pm and 7:30pm Tickets \$25-\$30 General Admission

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