

Nina Simone's Daughter Simone Releases Debut Album April 29th



New York, NY â€” (January 28, 2008) â€” On April 29, 2008, another generation of talent will be releasing her first solo album nationwide. Her name is Simone and she is the daughter of the legendary musical icon Nina Simone. She is her own woman, a singer, songwriter and performer whose ability to transcend genres echoes the tradition of her mother.

With the upcoming release of her first full-length album on High Priestess/Koch, *Simone On Simone* (a big band tribute to her mother produced by famed jazz musician and arranger Bob Belden), music lovers worldwide will discover the vocal dynamism that live audiences have witnessed for over a decade. Fortunate to have gotten over fifty of her mother's original arrangements, Simone began working with producer Bob Belden (whose credits include work with Woody Herman, Donald Byrd, Mel Lewis and Dianne Reeves and extensive credits as a premier jazz reissue producer) on the recording project, culling eleven songs from Nina Simone's repertoire, including one live performance on which her mother accompanied her and featuring one poignant and highly personal song, "Child In Me" which Simone fondly refers to as "my love song to my mother."

She succeeds admirably turning in tour-de-force performances on little-known gems from her mother's recorded repertoire such as "Keeper Of The Flame," "I Hold No Grudge" and "Don't You Pay Them No Mind" (all from Nina Simone's 1966 LP *High Priestess Of Soul*) as well as the reworking of such classics as "Feeling Good," "Black Is The Color Of

My True Loveâ€™s Hairâ€” (given a completely new and original twist), â€œWork Song,â€” the spirited â€œ(Youâ€™ll) Go To Hellâ€” and swinging versions of â€œLove Me Or Leave Meâ€” and Duke Ellingtonâ€™s â€œGal From Joeâ€™s.â€” Rounding out her first of many future albums: â€œI Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Freeâ€” (the Billy Taylor tune closely identified with her mother as one of the potent message songs which were so much a part of Nina Simoneâ€™s catalog of music with themes of freedom, self-empowerment and justice for all) and â€œHow Long Must I Wander,â€” a plaintive song that speaks to Simoneâ€™s own formative years traveling across the globe with her mother.

Chuck Mitchell, Koch Vice President of Jazz/Adult Music, states, â€œThere are extremely rare occasions when you come across a musical performer and say to yourself: â€˜This artist can do anything!â€™ Simone has inherited her motherâ€™s charisma, but when she sings you immediately realize that she stands out on her own. We expect to hear Simone in a variety of musical settings going forwardâ€”this is just the beginning.â€”

Blessed with a rich vocal range, an innate skill for lyrical interpretation and a soul-deep understanding of music as a means of healing, empowerment and celebration, Simone is very much her motherâ€™s daughter, but she is most assuredly a multi-talented artist in her own right.

For more information on Simone visit www.simonesworld.com

Beyonce To Play Etta James In New Film



While speaking to Cedric the Entertainer on his latest film, 'Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins', he mentioned to blackfilm.com that Beyonce has been cast to play famed singer Etta James on his next film, 'Cadillac Records'.

The story is about Leonard Chess, the legendary founder of the South Side Chicago blues label Chess Records. The period piece follows the rise and fall of Chess Records, which launched the careers of such R&B greats as Muddy Waters, Etta James and Chuck Berry. Chess, who was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987, scoured the South, checking out the various blues scenes and selling records from the back of his Cadillac. Cedric the Entertainer will play Willie Dixon, who wrote most of the hits records and was part of the famous company. One of his most famous songs was "Hoochie Coochie Man".

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