

Palmetto Records
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Palmetto Records Announces the Release of *The Target*_Kate McGarry



Kate McGarry, vocals; Keith Ganz, guitar; Gary Versace, keyboards & accordion, Reuben Rogers, bass; Greg Hutchinson, drums; Donny McCaslin, tenor sax; Theo Bleckmann, voice loops & effects.

"It's always my goal to reach the essence of the song and its meaning to me, and deliver that to the listener." – Kate McGarry

On *The Target*, her third Palmetto release, Kate McGarry delivers. With a set of original tunes and arrangements from an eclectic repertoire of standard and not-so-standard fare, Kate redefines the realm of vocal jazz.

Listen casually and you'll hear Kate's elastic contralto and inventive phrasing enveloped in a lush tapestry of instrumentals. But listen more intently and catch the nuances evolved from a childhood of Irish folk melodies, a study of African rhythms and avant garde experiments, spiritual reflection, and an unwavering mission to infuse each song with new meaning.

The first (and still only) vocalist on the Palmetto label, Kate's 2003 debut *Show Me* prompted C. Michael Bailey (*All About Jazz*) to write, "She scats like a dream without caricature." Showing her folk and pop roots, Kate next released *Mercy Streets* in 2005, dubbed by *All About Jazz* as "one of the most important vocal albums of the year." Now on *The Target*, using the instrumentation of organ, guitar, bass, drums and sax, Kate returns to a sound solidly in the jazz tradition. As for the playlist, each tune was chosen on its own merits, yet all "are inextricably connected to each other," notes Kate. "Each song is an attempt to connect and interact with the musicians in a way that is organic to that tune. Most are deliberately arranged to allow an unfolding or an exploration to take place."

What unfolds is pure magic, from the opening Bobby Troup classic turned on its ear, "***The Meaning of the Blues***," to the short-and-sweet closing, "***New Love Song***," written for Kate by husband/guitarist Keith Ganz. In between Kate explores a diverse palette: Luciana Souza's "***No Wonder***" (spiced by Kate's vocal gymnastics); a very swinging trio rendition of the Betty Carter classic, "***Do Something***"; *Brigadoon*'s "***Heather on the Hill***" (reshaped by Kate and pianist Gary Versace as a 21st century Celtic ballad); a noir-ish take on Sting's "***Sister Moon***" (further haunted by Versace's accordion); great standards like the Hammerstein and Kern gem, "***Nobody Else But Me***" (note Keith Ganz acrobatic guitar), "***It Might As Well Be Spring***" (revel in Kate's exquisite phrasing and the gold-threaded lyricism of Ganz and Versace) and "***The Lamp Is Low***" (reinvented by Keith Ganz' arrangement, reinvigorated with Donny McCaslin's wailing tenor).

The Target also bears the unmistakable imprint of Kate McGarry as composer and lyricist. The title track ***The Target*** is based on a poem from her days at the ashram searching for a deeper understanding of God, "a contemplation of who actually does the searching and who does the finding." With Gary Versace adding an ethereal touch to Kate's original lyrics, the Evans/Davis classic "***Blue in Green***" asks us regard each other as fellow travelers. Guitarist Steve Cardenas' "***She Always Will***" glows not only from Kate's introspective lyrics but also from the plaintive basslines of Reuben Rogers and shimmering cymbals from Greg Hutchinson.

The Target reflects an eclectic weaving of old and new, swing and contemplation, searching and finding, Kate McGarry's most definitive artistic statement to date.

Following its April 17th release, Kate will be touring throughout the U.S. and Europe to promote *The Target*. For tour dates in your area or for more information, visit www.katemcgarry.com or www.palmetto-records.com; press contact Lindsay Brust at Lindsay.palmetto@thorn.net

"THE TARGET is a celebration of the creative impulse_what happens when musicians come together with the intention to connect and give of themselves."
— Kate McGarry