

KATE MCGARRY BIO- LONGER VERSION

With 7 critically acclaimed CDs and 3 Grammy nominations (2009, 2019, 2021) Kate McGarry has become recognized as a jazz artist who brings authenticity and vitality to every song regardless of genre. *The Wall St. Journal* calls her music, “austere and elegant,” *The New York Times* pronounced it, “astute and sensitive”. She currently performs in jazz clubs, performing arts centers and festivals throughout the US and abroad. She has served on the faculty at Manhattan School of Music and California Jazz Conservatory. *Downbeat's 2016 Critics Poll* named McGarry the #1 Rising Star Female Vocalist. She has been interviewed on *All Things Considered*, has performed on *Jazz Set w/DeeDee Bridgwater*, *Piano Jazz w/Marion McPartland*, and a host of nationally syndicated radio shows.

Singer Kate McGarry grew up in Hyannis, Mass., one of 10 children in a musical family that spent many nights singing together. At the University of Massachusetts Amherst she earned a degree in Afro-American Music and Jazz where her professors included Dr. Horace Boyer, Archie Shepp, Max Roach, Billy Taylor and the great author and civil rights icon James Baldwin. Her experiences living at a meditation ashram, and exploring Celtic, Brazilian and Indian music also contributed to her widescreen vision as a vocalist and composer. After years honing her craft in Los Angeles, McGarry moved to New York where her debut album, *Show Me*, was picked up by Palmetto Records. *Jazziz Magazine* declared, “With this near-flawless album, she has arrived.”

In 2005 McGarry’s album *Mercy Streets*— which ranged from the Peter Gabriel title track to songs by Björk, Joni Mitchell and Irving Berlin – was called “one of the most important vocal albums of the year” by *All About Jazz*. Featuring originals alongside tunes by Sting and Bill Evans/Miles Davis, her album *The Target* was named one of the best jazz vocal albums of 2007 by *Downbeat*. The *Downbeat* reviewer called the recording “a milestone of maturity,” adding: “McGarry has the pure untrammelled voice of an ingénue who finds wonder in the simplest of things.”

Her 2008 album, *If Less Is More Nothing Is Everything*, was nominated for a Grammy Award, with The Wall Street Journal calling it “an exceptionally appealing blend of folk and jazz” for its mix of originals, standards, Brazilian tunes and songs by the likes of Bob Dylan. *National Public Radio* said: “Kate McGarry is called a jazz vocalist, but she's hard to pin down. She draws on the music of her youth to inspire her – from the Irish tunes of her family's roots to musical theater to pop songs.”

In 2008 Kate and her husband Keith Ganz made a foray into children’s music writing and recording 63 original children’s songs for the *Heinle Picture Dictionary for Children*, a bestselling international ESL educational product.

Kate was later invited to sing the theme song for the hit children's show, *The WonderPets* in a special jazz episode that featured the great Eartha Kitt and Jon Hendricks as The Cool Kat and the Hip Hippo.

McGarry has performed on some of the world's most beloved stages, from Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and Birdland and her NYC home for 20 years, Jazz Standard; to the Newport Jazz Festival, Berlin Jazz Fest, San Sebastian, and Jazz Baltica Festivals. She has performed, recorded or toured with such jazz luminaries as Hank Jones, Clark Terry, Archie Shepp, Fred Hersch, Kurt Elling, Maria Schneider, John Hollenbeck and Tony Award winner Jason Robert Brown. Kate represented the U.S. State Department and Jazz at Lincoln Center for 3 years as a Jazz Ambassador in the American Music Abroad program, touring Romania, Albania, Brazil, Chile, China and Mongolia.

McGarry's 2012 CD for Palmetto Records *Girl Talk* was a tribute to her favorite visionary jazz women vocalists. It garnered 4 stars in *Downbeat Magazine* and showed up on over 20 Best of 2012 jazz critic's lists. Her 2013 collaboration with John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble, *Songs I Like A Lot*, was lauded as a milestone in contemporary vocal jazz, receiving a Grammy™ nomination for Best Arrangement for a Vocalist. Collaborations with Ryan Truesdell, Jeremy Fox have resulted in additional Grammy nominations, awards and accolades.

Kate currently lives in Durham, North Carolina with guitarist/producer/husband Keith Ganz and their dog Juno. The couple celebrated a 10 year anniversary of musical and life partnership with their first live duo recording, *Genevieve and Ferdinand* on Sunnyside Records. The tunes, as is typical of their live sets, moved freely between jazz, folk, Brazilian and singer-songwriter genres.

Their last CD *The Subject Tonight Is Love*, recorded in Durham with long time friend and collaborator Gary Versace, marked the beginning of a new era of cinematic storytelling. The trio's many fans funded the recording on PledgeMusic. *The Subject Tonight Is Love* was lauded by critics and public alike and received a 2019 Grammy nomination for Best Jazz Vocal CD.

In 2020 Kate received her 3rd Grammy nomination (Best Big Band Album) for her vocal contributions to John Hollenbeck's *Song You Like A Lot*.

Their upcoming album *What to Wear in the Dark* features vibrant, jazz-fueled rearrangements of songs by iconic songwriters of the 70's that address the journey of darkness to light we've been traveling as a country and as individuals this year, with performances by jazz greats Ron Miles, Gary Versace, Obed Calvaire, Sean Smith, Clarence Penn, Becca Stevens, Erin Bentlage, Michelle Willis, Christian Euman, and James Shipp. This long anticipated work is slated for release on the Resilience Music Alliance label 9/3/21.

Kate's vision for the future includes recording, touring, composing and collaborating as well as teaching and continuing to pass on the many gifts that the jazz music tradition has given to her. As *The Nashville Scene* noted, "McGarry embraces jazz's freedom and points the genre toward a future that's as fresh and thrilling as its past."