

Simone Morris

BIO

Simone's innate musicality informed a musical path which began in classical piano at age 6. She realized early that music was a powerful way of expressing emotion and it became an integral part of who she was as a person. Her mature interpretive and technical abilities caught the attention of teachers at once. As a youngster, Simone enthusiastically volunteered for anything musical - from piano performance competitions where she frequently placed in the Top 5 (often the youngest in her group), to school concert & stage bands, high school musical theatre productions (& leading the pit-band), to accompanying school choirs and solo instrumental Royal Conservatory exams, to summer jobs as Musical Director for musical theatre productions.

With numerous performance & direction experiences under her belt, she went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music from York University (Toronto). While at York, she discovered her voice in a life-changing way. As a member of, and soloist in, the University's Jazz Choir ("Wibijazz'n"), the joy of singing caused her to re-focus, hone her chops, and begin her lifelong path as a vocalist. A born-communicator, Simone felt she'd found the ideal form of musical expression for her.

Known for soulful takes on life and love, she draws on the early influence of favourite singers such as Ray Charles, Etta James, & Joni Mitchell alongside her favourite women in jazz - Billie Holliday, Sarah Vaughan, Anita O'Day, Ella Fitzgerald & Nina Simone. Yet Simone carves her own way in the jazz scene. She revels in cultivating a musical 'home' for the unexpected.

Simone is celebrating the worldwide release of her all-original debut album "Settling Up" (November 2, 2018), co-written with long-time guitarist, Mike Freedman. "Settling Up" hit #1 on the iTunes Jazz Charts upon its release.

PRESS:

CBC Radio "Big City, Small World" – Errol Nazareth (host)

"Gorgeous album..."

CHRW-FM 94.9 "Jazz For A Sunday Night" – Barrie Woodey (host)

"Thank you for restoring my faith in good vocalizing."

100.9 Canoe FM "Jazz at the 45th" – Tim Hagarty (host)

"Simone's voice is just right for me with a tinge of sassy 'coarseness' that I am very fond of. "

CONTACT:

Contact: info@simonemorris.ca

Website: <http://www.simonemorris.ca>