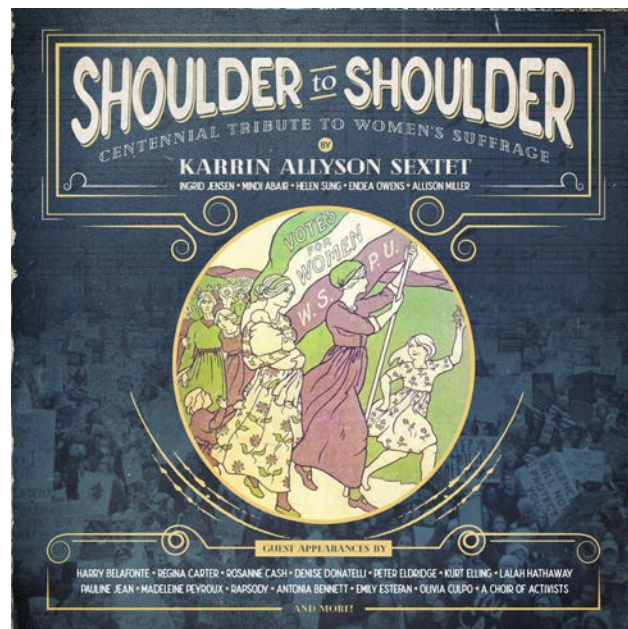




KARRIN ALLYSON SEXTET RELEASES
SHOULDER TO SHOULDER:
CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE TO WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Available Digitally on August 30, 2019
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Album features appearances by Madeleine Peyroux, Kurt Elling, Regina Carter, Rapsody, Veronica Swift, Olivia Culpo, with Harry Belafonte, Rosanne Cash, Julie Swidler, Lalah Hathaway, Peter Eldridge and more



(August xx, 2019) The Karrin Allyson Sextet releases *Shoulder to Shoulder: Centennial Tribute to Women's Suffrage*, a very special and timely album, today to celebrate the centennial of women's voting rights. In addition to five-time Grammy nominee Karrin Allyson, the sextet also features **Ingrid Jensen** (trumpet), **Mindi Abair** (alto saxophone) **Helen Sung** (piano), **Endea Owens** (bass), and **Allison Miller** (drums).

Shoulder to Shoulder seeks to re-create the multi-decade debate – warts and all – that culminated in the enactment of the nineteenth amendment. “We want to highlight this significant movement in American history. One that we shouldn’t forget and that is relevant today. It’s also one in which music played an important role,” said **Karrin Allyson**.

A remarkable artist, Allyson is also an activist who feels equally comfortable on the bandstand, as she does at the podium making the case for women's rights. In fact, she has a history of writing songs ("Big Discount," "Way Down Below") that challenge conventional political wisdom and call for societal change.

Most of these songs are propaganda. They were composed in the nineteenth or early twentieth century to advance or abridge women's voting rights. In fact, the "suffrage" repertoire is made up of hundreds of songs, and Allyson and the production team selected ones that typified the back-and-forth debate of the struggle. That these songs can be re-imagined speaks not only to their timeless quality but the power of music in advancing social movements. The "war" over women's rights was waged, in part, through and by music. And here these songs are made relevant again through modern jazz.

Because of the theme's inclusive import, Allyson and the production team invited several notable guests to "lend their voices" to the debate. Adding copious artists can risk turning any project from a cohesive musical statement to a "gathering place." Alas, Allyson's powerful and profound vocals provide the through line and beginning-to-end narrative arc of the entire production. This album is very much a story. And Allyson is its storyteller, with each guest thoughtfully featured to dramatize historical episodes in the women's suffrage movement.

Shoulder to Shoulder has an incredible array of featured artists. Guest appearances by **Madeleine Peyroux** (vocals), **Kurt Elling** (vocals), **Regina Carter** (violin), **Denise Donatelli** (vocals), **Veronica Swift** (vocals), **Rhapsody** (rap), **Antonia Bennett** (vocals), **Emily Estefan** (vocals), **Pauline Jean** (vocals), **Olivia Culpo** (cello) and a **Choir of over forty Women's Rights Activists**. There are several spoken word performances that re-create the debate over woman's suffrage: **Harry Belafonte** performs a speech by **Frederick Douglass**, **Rosanne Cash** performs a speech by **Susan B. Anthony**, **Julie Swidler** performs a speech by **Alice Paul**, **Lalah Hathaway** performs a speech by **Sojourner Truth**, and **Peter Eldridge** performs a speech by **Elihu Root**. There is even a brief appearance by **Roberta Flack** on the album. **Susan Morrison** of *The New Yorker* serves as an Executive Producer of the project, which was produced by multi-Grammy winners **Kabir Sehgal**, **John Daversa**, and **Doug Davis**.

Next year, 2020, isn't just a presidential election year. It's the 100-year anniversary of the nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which became law on August 18, 1920, when Tennessee became the thirty-sixth state to approve the measure. It took some seventy years (and arguably more) to ink this clause into law. And it had immediate and enormous effects on the electorate as some 26 million women could vote in the 1920 presidential election, which swelled to over 74 million who voted in the 2016 election. And while the enactment of this amendment was cause for celebration one hundred years ago, it also exacerbated societal fissures, as African American women and other minorities weren't able to fully participate in elections. This is a tension that is explored

in the liner notes, which emphasize the importance of African American suffragists such as **Frances Ellen Wakins Harper** and **Mary Ann Shadd Cary** to the broader movement. The musical repertoire also conveys the injustices borne by minorities. For example, Sojourner Truth's prescient and powerful speech makes a plea to treat everyone fairly.

While Americans take stock of the distance we have traveled, let's also look ahead to that which still needs improvement. Such is the challenge of our times, to make sure that everyone can join the chorus for freedom, liberty, and dignity for all.

Repertoire

1. Preamble
2. The March of the Women
3. The Great Convention (featuring Madeleine Peyroux, Denise Donatelli)
4. Susan B. Anthony (1873) performed by Rosanne Cash
5. I'll Be No Submissive Wife
6. Frederick Douglass (1888) performed by Harry Belafonte
7. Anti Suffrage Rose (featuring Veronica Swift)
8. She's Good Enough To Be Your Baby's Mother
9. Elihu Root (1894) performed by Peter Eldridge
10. Columbia's Daughters
11. Sojourner Truth (1851) performed by Lalah Hathaway
12. The Promised Land (featuring Pauline Jean, Antonia Bennett, Emily Estefan, Kate Reid)
13. Winning the Vote (featuring Kurt Elling)
14. Alice Paul (1921) performed by Julie Swidler
15. Way Down Below (featuring Regina Carter)
16. Big Discount (featuring Rapsody)

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