

## BECCA STEVENS ELICITS RAVES FROM HER PEERS; JOINS REBECCA MARTIN AND GRETCHEN PARLATO AT STANFORD JAZZ WORKSHOP

Singer-composer-guitarist Becca Stevens is a musician's musician, whose work with her own band and collaborations with Travis Sullivan's Bjorketra, Taylor Eigsti, Brad Mehldau and Eric Harland has won acclaim from critics and the respect and admiration of her peers.

Her singing has been described as "remarkable, soulful, pitch-perfect and subtle in its controlled acrobatics" (Winston-Salem Journal) and cited for its "no bulls\*\*t emotional delivery" (Boston Phoenix). **Weightless**, her debut for Sunnyside Records, will be released on April 19.

Stevens will sing with pianist-composer Brad Mehldau at New York's Carnegie Hall on March 11 and at Sanders Hall in Cambridge on March 12. In a recent New York Times Playlist feature, Mehldau lauded Stevens' "take on harmony, which is really cool and unexpected," and went on to say that "the way she's thinking about melody is very original, with these wide leaps and chromatic dips."

Grammy winner Esperanza Spalding has praised Stevens in a number of recent interviews, and likens her music to a "cool bubbling brook freshening the brine of all the music you've ever heard."

Kurt Elling pegged Stevens as one of his favorite singers when he was interviewed on NPR's World Café in February, calling her "just delightful" and noting that her music "goes beyond boundaries...she's such a great songwriter, and very unique."

For the second consecutive year, the Stanford Jazz Workshop will feature a songwriting program led by renowned singer and composer Rebecca Martin. This year, Becca Stevens will join Martin and Gretchen Parlato for the week-long workshop, which will take place in July. For more information about the program, go to <http://bit.ly/dLWr5x>.

**Weightless** includes eight original compositions and a quartet of distinctive interpretations of songs by Animal Collective, Iron & Wine, Seal and The Smiths. The music resists easy categorization and demonstrates Stevens' stylistic versatility and impressive ability to find an emotional connection with material from wildly divergent sources.

Stevens reflects on her creative objectives: "Every day I learn from the music of composers who have come before me and on whose shoulders I stand...my focus as an artist is to cast those experiences in a musical and poetic language that will resonate with the listener and affect a moment, a day or a life."

For more information about Becca Stevens, please contact Regina Joskow at Missing Piece Group ([regina@missingpiecegroup.com](mailto:regina@missingpiecegroup.com)), 862-234-0801 or Bret Sjerven at Sunnyside Records ([bret@sunnysiderecords.com](mailto:bret@sunnysiderecords.com)), 6464-519-3560.