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“A very distinctive voice”

— WBGO

“A real jazz singer”

— Randy Jackson, American Idol

Vocalist-composer Gabrielle Cavassa issues highly anticipated debut release

“Gabrielle Cavassa”

NEW ORLEANS, LA - August 5, 2020 — In her self-titled debut, critically-acclaimed New Orleans singer and composer Gabrielle Cavassa presents an intimate and honest expression of vulnerability. Six original compositions and four lesser-known love songs reveal extreme intimacy in Cavassa’s writing and interpretation. A collection of confessions and longings tells the layered and autobiographical story of a young woman struggling to love and be loved.

Certain tracks are fragmented, at times wholly improvisational. To serve the record’s essential rawness, Cavassa recruited artists who would walk the line between mastery and fallibility, inviting GRAMMY-nominated artist **Jamison Ross** as co-producer and drummer, **Ryan Hanseler** on piano + Rhodes, **Lex Warshawsky** on bass, and mixing legend **Q Million**, known for his studio work with **Robert Glasper**.

Cavassa herself chose to play Rhodes on opening track “It Was Supposed To Be A Love Song,” a tune she penned recognizing her love for someone to be independent of his ability to love her back. She recorded the track with no post-production edits, preserving every cracked vocal and raspy rub – even as she holds back tears. Details in Cavassa’s deceptively repetitive arrangement for “Podcasts” invite listeners to take a second, third and fourth listen. Breakout saxophonist and multi-instrumentalist **Braxton Cook** sparks a playful conversation from the start of the tune, conjuring a mood that serves Cavassa’s lyric – a reflection of her dry, self-effacing wit. Evocative of “Poinciana’s” iconic groove, “Jim” provides Cavassa a familiar vessel for creative lamentation. Through **Nelson Shawn**’s lyric, she tugs at the entire record’s modern – at times,

sarcastic – torch song narrative. Her vocals move from near whispers to enveloping waves, as she traces generations of song interpreters who have charted the tune before her.

The record takes a turn during “Oakland,” which confronts Cavassa’s devotions and addictions, how both can manifest in restlessness – and recklessness. Improvising a majority of the melody and lyrics, Cavassa engages Hanseler against a duo setting in which the artists lean on one another and play off each other at moments of inhaling, exhaling and bated breaths, leaving the harmony unresolved. Q Million’s nuanced contribution adds ribbons of sonic wobble throughout the track, allowing the Rhodes to fall in and out of tune. Track 5 pays homage to New Orleans legend **Germaine Bazzle** who wrote, “To You My Love”. The song was recorded by vocalist **Tami Lynn** in the 1960s for a record with **Harold Battiste’s AFO Executives**. Following guitarist **Ari Teitel**’s rubato introduction, Cavassa rests before bringing the tune into time. “Inside My Arms” represents Cavassa’s more bitter than sweet take on the iconic slow jam. She and Cook engage in cat-and-mouse conversation around the question, “Will I give him my heart to break?”

Part social critique, “Vanity” examines real and perceived reasons why a woman might prefer the company of herself to that of others. For its studio version, Cavassa presents an intimate duo context, and spotlight for Warshawsky. The intro track for “19th & Judah” invites listeners into Cavassa’s process of composition, featuring a voice memo she recorded in her car at cross streets, 19th and Judah in San Francisco. The actual composition grooves at a laidback pulse amid warm-toned contributions from New Orleans trumpet player **Ashlin Parker**. Cavassa closes her debut record with **Billy Eckstine**’s cherished ballad “I Want to Talk About You” – a personal favorite of hers. Reminiscent of waning hours at a smoky club, the track serves her album’s deeply personal and sensitive resonance.

Gabrielle Cavassa emerged when A&R reps began courting the young singer after hearing her perform as a finalist in the 2018 International Sarah Vaughan Jazz Vocal Competition. Reluctant to turn over her artistic control, Cavassa opted to issue her debut release independently. At The Parlor recording studio in New Orleans, she and her collaborators recorded the album to tape, enjoying total creative control over the process — luxuriating in the warmth and embracing the rub.

An emerging talent out of New Orleans, singer-composer Gabrielle Cavassa has received recognition from JazzIz, OffBeat Magazine and WBGO. She’s appeared at intimate venues and on famed stages throughout the Bay Area and New Orleans, where she currently resides. Following a warm reception for her EP, August 21, 2020 she celebrates the release of her self-titled debut record, co-produced by Jamison Ross. For more information on unique and evolving artistry, visit www.gabriellecavassa.com.

Website : <https://gabriellecavassa.com/>

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