



MOTÉMA MUSIC & HEARTCORE RECORDS LOVINGLY PRESENT

# GERI ALLEN KURT ROSENWINKEL A LOVESOME THING

LIVE AT PHILHARMONIE DE PARIS

A 2012 DUO CONCERT. OUT NOV 24 (CD/DIGITAL); Note: 180g VINYL RELEASE DATE TBA SOON



*"Geri Allen and Kurt Rosenwinkel are beautifully compatible. Their sound and musicality are a perfect fit on this gem recording. So happy it is finally being shared with the world! I always felt that Geri's chordal motion was very guitar-oriented, so the simpatico between them is no surprise."*

– Terri Lyne Carrington

This November, Motéma Music, in harmonious collaboration with Kurt Rosenwinkel's Heartcore Records, looks forward to joyfully unveiling to the world a musical treasure that has been hidden in the vaults of Cite de La Musique in Paris since 2012. The delicate masterwork, "A Lovesome Thing," allows the magical synergy between the late and legendary pianist Geri Allen, and the innovative and very much in demand guitarist Kurt Rosenwinkel to be heard for the first time on record. For friends and fans of Geri Allen who were heart broken by her untimely death in 2017, this release offers a blessed opportunity to hear her voice (both musically and literally) once again, and to experience a magical evening of music that was especially important to Allen." Terri Lyne Carrington, one of Allen's closest collaborators notes "This is an important album in the rich legacy of Geri Allen recordings, and I believe the fans of Kurt Rosenwinkel will be quite delighted as well!"

"Everybody wanted to play with Geri Allen –" began Allen Morrison's July 2022 Downbeat feature, inducting her into the Downbeat Hall of Fame. "...Ornette Coleman, Betty Carter, Ron Carter and Tony Williams, Charlie Haden and Paul Motian, Dave Holland and Jack DeJohnette, Esperanza Spalding, David Murray, Terri Lyne Carrington, and on and on." Add to that list the great Kurt Rosenwinkel, who invited her to sit in with his band at the Jazz Standard in July of 2012. The simpatico was strong. "Geri was so impressed with the flow and the freedom of the music she experienced during that one night that she urged me to arrange another performance with Kurt as soon as possible." explains Ora Harris, Geri's long-time manager, "So Anders Chan-Tidemann, Kurt

Rosenwinkel's manager at the time, and I put our heads together and were able to book a duo date for Geri and Kurt to perform later that year at the Jazz à la Villette festival in Paris." The concert took place on Sept 5th, 2012 before a packed and hugely appreciative audience at the famed Philharmonie de Paris, a stunningly beautiful hall with world-renowned acoustics.

Allen and Rosenwinkel flew in that night from separate cities. There was no rehearsal. Yet in a mesmerizing display of improvised musical telepathy, they wove a harmonious tapestry, entangling their listeners with layers upon layers of ambiguous yet mystically elegant and expansive expressions. The tones of the guitar and piano merged and re-emerged in a dense and majestic field where musical ideas budded, blossomed, turn to seed, and sprouted anew in lovable detail as the artists thoroughly re-imagined Strayhorn, Gershwin and Monk and each revealed two delightful and never-before-recorded originals. As their instruments became extensions of their beings, notes flew between them as if an unseen hand was directing this intimate conversation between maestros. It was soul-stirring, and lovable.

"There was a strong bond between Geri and myself: a beautiful internal smile, a deep respect." Rosenwinkel relates "I am so grateful we had the opportunity to work together. We talked through the years about projects we wanted to do, songs we wanted to play, but alas, we only had the chance to play a few times. This concert was the first and only time we played duo together. There was no rehearsal."

The artists were so caught up by their musical collaboration that night, that they mutually vowed to memorialize their creative bond in the studio soon. "Geri spoke often to me of her desire to record with Kurt," says Motema founder and director Jana Herzen. "And it was an idea I was keen to pursue." Fate, however, had other plans, and the dream of a studio date died along with Geri when she succumbed to complications related to cancer in 2017.

She was just sixty. Her death shocked the jazz community and messages of respect and love poured in from the far corners of the jazz world evidencing Allen's quiet, yet totally pervasive influence on contemporary jazz. "In this music, there was before Geri Allen and after Geri Allen. She's that important," wrote pianist Ethan Iverson. "She truly has had a great influence on my style and approach to music thanks to her innate genius." wrote Herbie Hancock. "Her spirit and legacy will live on forever," said McCoy Tyner, who Allen, herself, had tributed with her solo masterwork "Flying Toward The Sound" which marked her debut on Motéma. "Geri was a powerful force: a master musician and a true Magician. I felt a connection with her – the level of interaction with the subtle planes, the inner lives of spirit and contact with the universe. We felt it in the music, something magical happening, and I believe you can hear it in this recording." writes Kurt Rosenwinkel in his album note. Indeed we can hear it. The guitarist proved to be a perfect musical soulmate for the soft spoken Allen, whose sensitivity was as legendary as her playing. If she were here, she would surely endorse Rosenwinkel in equally glowing terms as did the New York Times who commented "Kurt Rosenwinkel can say more in a few lines (of music) than most guitarists manage over the course of an entire career..."

Motema's founder and president, Jana Herzen, who oversaw the release of four prior acclaimed Allen albums, worked in loving detail with Rosenwinkel as well as with illustrator Jenya Hitz, and mastering engineer Alan Sliverman, and Motema Art Director Rebecca Meek and to create the Lovable package. For those who revere the legacy of Geri Allen, admire the virtuosity of Kurt Rosenwinkel, or simply appreciate the enchanting allure of piano and guitar jazz, this album serves as a portal to an ephemeral moment in time, where music transcended the mundane and reached the sublime.

This release finds Rosenwinkel in a watershed moment as he tours to support the four Heartcore albums that he's released since January of 2022: Undercover, Berlin Baritone, The Chopin Project, Kurt Rosenwinkel Plays Piano. Happily, he will also join Motema in Paris for a three night celebration of the label's 20th Anniversary at the Sunset/Sunside Club in Paris. Motema artists Flamenkora and Shuteen Erdenebaatar quartet, and Jana Herzen will perform on November 2 & 3, and, Rosenwinkel close out the celebrations on November 4th in duo with pianist Gerald Clayton (who worked under Allen's wing in her 'Errol Garner, Concert by the Sea' project) and will join Rosenwinkel in tributing Allen by playing the music from A Lovesome Thing.



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#### Album Pre-Release Event

**Nov 4@ Sunset Club, Paris FR: A Lovesome Thing: Album Celebration with Gerald Clayton**

#### Label & Artist Inquiries

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#### **BIOGRAPHY: KURT ROSENWINKEL - GUITARIST, COMPOSER, PRODUCER**

Kurt Rosenwinkel has been a distinct and prominent creative voice at the forefront of modern music for more than three decades. The American multi-instrumentalist, composer, and producer has gained international recognition for his deft artistry and unabated individualism since he first appeared on the New York music scene in 1991. His legacy as the preeminent jazz guitar voice of his generation is plainly evident on his fifteen albums as a leader, each one the inspiration for legions of musicians young and old across the globe.

In addition to his genre-defining work as a bandleader, Rosenwinkel is also an accomplished sideman, with over 150 credits to his name. His first exposure to international touring was with Gary Burton, the legendary vibraphonist who hired him out of Berklee College in 1992. That same year he joined Paul Motian's

Electric Bebop Band, and entered into a decade-long musical relationship with the drummer that helped usher in a new era in Motian's already illustrious career.

These collaborative relationships, along with tours as Joe Henderson's guitarist in 1997 established Rosenwinkel early in his career as a player who had the blessing of giants of the jazz world. His work with Brian Blade Fellowship, Mark Turner, Joshua Redman, Seamus Blake, Donald Fagen, and hosts of other jazz luminaries further cemented his star power.

Rosenwinkel's success has also extended far beyond the world of jazz. He has been a member of the Crossroads Guitar Festival family since 2013, when he was personally invited by blues and rock legend Eric Clapton to perform and share the stage with him. The iconic guitarist who called Rosenwinkel "a genius" also featured on Rosenwinkel's *Caipi* (2017), playing on the song "Little Dream". Rosenwinkel's collaboration with Q-Tip on *The Renaissance* (2008) and *Kamaal the Abstract* (2009) showed that Rosenwinkel's playing had breadth that extended comfortably into hip-hop that has led to performances on *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon* with The Roots, and a collaboration with internet sensations DOMi and JD BECK.

In the winter of 2016, Rosenwinkel formed the independent music label Heartcore Records with the focused intention of signing and promoting a new generation of musicians whose exacting standards and creative passions equal his own. Over the last few years, Heartcore has released a series of online masterclasses taught by Rosenwinkel that leads viewers through deep theoretical, compositional, and technical explorations of musical topics with humor and approachability. Heartcore Records has also allowed Rosenwinkel to flourish in another dimension of his ever-evolving musical practice as a record producer of other artists, while still consistently putting out his own music that blazes new pathways in the annals of modern jazz.

Kurt was awarded A German Jazz Prize in 2023.

### **Kurt Rosenwinkel Tour Dates**

Oct 20: The Chopin Project - Chorus, le jazz à Lausanne - Lausanne CH

Oct 25: KR Trio - Teatro Oriente - Providencia CL

Oct 27: KR Trio - Teatro Universidad de Concepción - Concepción CL

Oct 28: KR Trio - Cavas del Valle - Coquimbo CL

Oct 30: KR Trio - Blue Note São Paulo - São Paulo BR

Oct 31: KR Trio - Blue Note Rio - Rio de Janeiro BR

**Nov 4: A Lovesome Thing: Album Celebration with Gerald Clayton - Sunset Club - Paris FR**

Nov 7th-12th - The Chopin Project - The Village Vanguard - NY, NY

Nov 15th-16th - The Chopin Project - Chris's Jazz Cafe - Philadelphia, PA

Nov 17th-19th - The Chopin Project - Jazz Showcase - Chicago IL

### **BIOGRAPHY: GERI ALLEN - COMPOSER, PIANIST, LEADER, EDUCATOR**

Born and raised in the vibrant musical hub of Detroit, Geri Allen emerged as a trailblazing pianist and educator, leaving an indelible mark on the world of jazz. Her musical odyssey began at the tender age of 7 under the mentorship of trumpeter Marcus Belgrave. Fueled by passion and talent, she graduated from Howard University in 1979, her horizons broadened by a rich tapestry of musical influences.

In 1982, Allen's journey took her to the University of Pittsburgh, where she delved into the intricate realms of Ethnomusicology under the guidance of Nathan Davis. This period became a transformative phase, shaping her into not just a gifted musician but also a dedicated educator. At the University of Pittsburgh, Allen's innovative spirit found fertile ground. She became the first woman and youngest individual ever to be honored with the prestigious Danish Jazzpar Prize. Her collaborations with iconic figures like Ornette Coleman and her critically acclaimed solo work, especially the notable "Flying Towards the Sound," showcased her improvisational brilliance. While at UPITT, Allen's commitment to community outreach and bridging educational inequities manifested through collaborations with artists and institutions nationwide. By virtually connecting to universities and cultural institutions across the country and collaborating with artists such as Terri Lyne Carrington, Chris Chafe, George Lewis, Michael Dressen, Jason Moran, Vijay Iyer, and The SFJAZZ High School All-Stars; Allen seamlessly merged the worlds of jazz and academia, fostering a new wave of talent.

Throughout her remarkable 35+ year career, Allen's piano keys resonated, recorded, performed and collaborated with some of the most important artists of our time including Ornette Coleman, Ravi Coltrane, George Shirley, Dewey Redman, Jimmy Cobb, Sandra Turner-Barnes, Charles Lloyd, Marcus Belgrave, Betty Carter, Jason Moran, Lizz Wright, Marian McPartland, Roy Brooks, Charlie Haden, Paul Motian, Laurie Anderson, Terri Lynn Carrington, Esperanza Spalding, Hal Willner, Ron Carter, Tony Williams, Dianne Reeves, Joe Lovano, Dr. Billy Taylor, Carrie Mae Weems, Angélique Kidjo, Mary Wilson and The Supremes, Howard University's Afro-Blue and many others. Her legacy, defined by innovation and artistry, continues to inspire budding musicians, a testament to her enduring influence on the world of jazz.

In 2017 Geri Allen passed, leaving behind not just a legacy of extraordinary music but also a legacy of passion, dedication, and boundless creativity that will echo through the corridors of jazz history for generations to come. Hailed as one of the most accomplished pianists and educators of her time, Allen contributed some of the most groundbreaking and forward-thinking music of the time. The remarkable pianist leaves behind a wealth of material that will educate future generations of musicians and was aptly inducted into the [Downbeat Magazines Hall of Fame in 2022](#).

### **Press Quotes about Kurt Rosenwinkel:**

"Kurt Rosenwinkel can say more in a few lines (of music) than most guitarists manage over the course of an entire career. A relentless explorer whose projects have ranged from solo guitar to orchestral settings, Rosenwinkel has staked out a singular position in jazz's firmament as a player, composer and bandleader with a vast and supremely sophisticated harmonic vision and melodic sensibility." – New York Times

"Among his generation of jazz musicians, Kurt Rosenwinkel has to be the most beloved guitarist. Chalk it up to his originality: He's set trends among his peers with ideas about harmony and form, and he's created an easily recognizable playing style on an instrument where individuality is rare in mainstream jazz." –NPR

### **Press Quotes about Geri Allen:**

“Her commitment to others manifested itself in her devotion to teaching and, in particular, to inspiring the next generation of women. Some of today’s most accomplished female jazz artists, like the composers/bassists Spalding and Linda May Han Oh, have cited her as a major influence on both their art and their sense of what was possible.” –Downbeat

“The influence of Allen’s pianism and her compositions, of her career as a bandleader and a collaborator, of her work as a scholar, professor, and university administrator, of her presence in general in general on the jazz scene - on our very idea of jazz- are both hard to overstate and only beginning to be grasped.” – Larry Blumenfeld (Chamber Music Magazine)

"In Geri Allen’s hands, at the piano, a composition or a scholarly study could lean on the past and into its future with grace and fearlessness, and without bias. The jazz world is only beginning to catch up to where she left off." – Larry Blumenfeld (Chamber Music Magazine)

"In this music, there was before Geri Allen and after Geri Allen. She’s that important.” – Ethan Iverson (Do The Math)

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