

RED HOUSE RECORDS

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HEATHER MASSE AND DICK HYMAN

LOCK MY HEART

RHR-CD-258 • Release Date: February 12, 2013

A piano legend joins a hot young vocal talent on this instant jazz classic!

Red House Records is pleased to announce the February 12, 2013 release of *Lock My Heart*, a fresh new jazz collaboration between brilliant young singer and songwriter **Heather Masse** and piano legend **Dick Hyman**. Artfully mixing Heather's originals with Tin Pan Alley classics from **Kurt Weill**, **Cole Porter** and the **Gershwins**, the album is a seamless blend of new and classic material. A pure acoustic recording featuring only Dick's masterful piano playing and Heather's impeccable vocals, this romantic release harkens back to a time when music was simply about beautiful songs and moving performances.



Although separated by two generations, the 85-year-old Dick Hyman and the 30-year-old Heather Masse share a deep love of jazz and classic American song that transcends any difference in age. "The first time I encountered Dick was when I was about 12 years old," Heather says. "My mother is a pianist and she had his book, *Dick Hyman's Professional Chord Changes and Substitutions for 100 Tunes Every Musician Should Know*. I would sing and play through the tunes and quickly fell in love with the American songbook."

It was not until many years later, after Heather had studied jazz at the **New England Conservatory of Music** and joined the **Billboard-charting** folk band **The Wailin' Jennys**, that she actually met Dick Hyman, one of her musical heroes. Introduced by **Garrison Keillor** on the set of the national radio show *A Prairie Home Companion*, they performed the Duke Ellington song "**I Got It Bad and That Ain't Good**."

"We found that we didn't need much rehearsal at all because it turned out to be such a natural pairing," Dick says of that first performance.

Musical sparks flew, and a year later Dick and Heather went into the studio to record some of their favorite jazz material, including that first Duke Ellington tune they ever played together. The sessions resulted in a magical collection that begins with the haunting "**Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered**" and finishes off with their playful Billie Holiday tribute "**I'm Gonna Lock My Heart (and Throw Away the Key)**." Full of gems, favorites are sure to include "**Lullaby of Birdland**," "**Love Is Here to Stay**" and Heather Masse's captivating love song "**If I Called You**."

A true partnership, *Lock My Heart* shows Heather's and Dick's true love for each other's music. "Working with Heather has been a joy!" Dick says. "I consider myself lucky to have been able to work together with her." Heather returns the compliment, saying, "Working with Dick on this project was such an honor. I was blown away not only by the mastery he has over his instrument but by his creativity. It was an inspiring experience and one of the great musical moments of my career."

An instant jazz classic, *Lock My Heart* is perfect for jazz lovers and audiophiles alike. Recorded in **Direct-Stream Digital (DSD)**, it is available as a **Hybrid Super Audio CD** in addition to the standard CD format.

In support of the new album, Heather Masse and Dick Hyman will be playing select dates together. For more information, visit www.redhousetrecords.com.

ABOUT DICK HYMAN "An extraordinary pianist with great taste, in total command of a magnificent instrument." -*Jazz Times*

At age 85, multiple **Emmy Award**-winning pianist, organist, arranger, music director and composer **Dick Hyman** is truly a music legend. Admired for his astounding versatility, he has written film scores, composed for orchestras, made countless concert appearances and recorded well over 100 albums under his own name. While developing a masterful facility for improvisation in his own piano style, Mr. Hyman has also investigated ragtime and the earliest periods of jazz, recording the music of Scott Joplin, Jelly Roll Morton, James P. Johnson, Zez Confrey, Eubie Blake and Fats Waller. An official Yamaha artist, he has recorded duet albums with **Ruby Braff, Ralph Sutton, Shelly Berg** and others. Always an innovator, Mr. Hyman was one of the first to record on the Moog synthesizer, and his "**Minotaur**" landed on the **Billboard Charts**.

Mr. Hyman's concert compositions for orchestra include his *Piano Concerto, Ragtime Fantasy, The Longest Blues in the World* and *From Chama to Cumbres by Steam*, a work for orchestra, jazz combo and prerecorded railroad sounds. In a growing catalogue of chamber music compositions, his most recent pieces are *Dances and Diversions* for the **Kinor String Quartet**, which has also been played by the **Shanghai Quartet**. Mr. Hyman has been heard in duo-piano performances with **Derek Smith**, in **Three-Piano Crossover** (with **Marian McPartland** and the late **Ruth Laredo**) and in pops concerts under the direction of **Doc Severinsen**. For twenty years he served as artistic director for the acclaimed **Jazz in July** series at New York's 92nd Street Y. For much of the same period he was also "jazz advisor" for the annual Oregon Festival of American Music. In addition to his activities in the jazz and concert worlds, Mr. Hyman has had a prolific career in New York as a studio musician and won seven **Most Valuable Player Awards** from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS). He acted as music director for such television programs as **Benny Goodman's** final appearance (on PBS) and for *In Performance at the White House*. He is a member of the **Jazz Hall of Fame** of the Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies and the New Jersey Jazz Society.

A go-to artist for theater and film, Mr. Hyman was music director for **Arthur Godfrey** and orchestrator of the hit musical *Sugar Babies*. He has served as composer/arranger/conductor/pianist for over ten **Woody Allen** films, including *Bullets Over Broadway, Mighty Aphrodite, Everyone Says "I Love You," Zelig* and *Purple Rose of Cairo*. Other original scores have included *Moonstruck, Scott Joplin-King of Ragtime, The Lemon Sisters* and *Alan and Naomi*. He has composed and performed scores for top choreographers and dance companies, including **Twyla Tharp, the Cleveland/San Jose Ballet Company** and the **American Ballet Theater**.

His new album with **Heather Masse, Lock My Heart**, is one of four projects scheduled for release during his 85th year. He joins his fiddler daughter **Judy Hyman** (of The Horse Flies, who also tours and records with Natalie Merchant) on *Late Last Summer*, an album of Judy's original waltzes. He performs with clarinetist/saxophonist **Ken Peplowski** on an album to be released in 2013 on Victoria Records. Also this season, Hal Leonard releases *Dick Hyman's Century of Jazz Piano--Transcribed!* which is based on Dick's previously recorded material. For more on Dick Hyman, visit www.dickhyman.com.

ABOUT HEATHER MASSE "delightful...her songs are sharply drawn, witty and gloriously melodic." -*Sing Out!*

Singer-songmaker **Heather Masse** is a rare artist with "lush velvety vocals, capable of melting butter in a Siberian winter" (*All Music*). She grew up in rural Maine and was trained at the **New England Conservatory of Music** as a jazz singer, she is steeped in the jazz tradition, which informs her distinct approach to singing folk, pop and bluegrass.

A member of the **Billboard-charting** folk supergroup **The Wailin' Jennys**, Ms. Masse has performed at the top venues, sharing the stage with the world's most acclaimed pop, classical and jazz acts, including **Elvis Costello, k.d. lang, Wynton Marsalis, Sheryl Crow, Mark O'Connor's Hot Jazz** and the **Boston Pops Orchestra**. She has been a frequent guest on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*, both as a solo performer and as a member of The Jennys. Ms. Masse has performed with the renowned contemporary bluegrass band **The Wayfaring Strangers** and in 2006, recorded an eponymous album with **Joy Kills Sorrow**, a contemporary stringband from Boston.

In 2008, Ms. Masse released *Many Moons*, an EP of jazz-inspired folk duets with pianist **Jed Wilson**. She followed that up with her first full-length solo album *Bird Song*. Her solo debut on Grammy-winning indie label Red House Records, the album showcased her luscious alto voice and her superb songwriting. The title track "Bird Song" won her **1st prize at the International Acoustic Music Awards**, and in 2012 she also won a prestigious **Juno Award** for *Bright Morning Stars*, her latest recording with The Wailin' Jennys.

Now, Heather Masse returns to her jazz roots on *Lock My Heart*, an album she recorded with piano legend **Dick Hyman**. In support of her new CD, she will be touring throughout 2013. For her full tour schedule, please visit www.heathermasse.com. When not on the road, Ms. Masse lives in the Catskills with her husband and new son August.