

SARI SCHORR



MANHATON RECORDING ARTIST



www.sarischorr.com

“When Sari Schorr named her debut album, she practically wrote her own press: recorded or live, Sari truly is A Force Of Nature, an unstoppable tsunami that has stormed across the blues/rock world, leaving a trail of shell-shocked cities in her wake.”
- Blues in Britain



BIOGRAPHY



"A voice of breathtaking quality and power and a live show that erupts like a volcano have catapulted Sari Schorr into the spotlight as the new undisputed star of Blues Rock!" - Devil's Gate Media

Sari Schorr has taken the Blues Rock world by storm. Schorr's "overnight" success comes after years trudging the rugged road of life of the hard-working singer/songwriter, performer. From working the music scene in the legendary fierce South Bronx of New York and on Manhattan's Lower East Side, to live performances at such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall and major TV appearances.

Sari Schorr has a voice like no other; hyper powerful, husky and muscular, with an incredible texture and range. Bottle the power of Grace Slick with the whisky doused warmth of Janis Joplin and the vintage vocal result is Sari Schorr who pours out her heart and soul. She delivers a sentence as a boxer would throw an uppercut to his opponent.

Sari gained prominence throughout the Blues world touring with the legendary guitarist, Joe Louis Walker. She was recognized for her contribution to the Blues in 2015 with an induction into the New York Blues Hall of Fame. In Memphis, that same year, a chance meeting with iconic record producer Mike Vernon (Fleetwood Mac, John Mayall, David Bowie, Eric Clapton, Peter Green) took Sari's career to the next level. Within minutes of hearing Sari sing Mike offered to produce her debut album, *A Force of Nature*. The album quickly established Sari as the new undisputed rising star of Blues-rock.

Now, Sari is breaking new ground with her sophomore album, *Never Say Never*. She has ventured deeper into her personal life. In the process, Sari has revealed herself with a vulnerability and honesty that she admits was as painful as it was healing. Her songs are highly crafted with vibrant lyrics that highlight just how good Sari is at invoking passion, grit, and empathy.

Never Say Never has been met with universal critical acclaim and has been nominated "Best Album" by the European Blues awards. *Never Say Never* quickly hit #1 on the IBBA Radio chart. The album was mixed in Atlanta by renowned producer Tom Tapley (Elton John, Blackberry Smoke, Counting Crows).

Sari is currently touring extensively to sold-out audiences throughout the USA & Europe. Sari has mesmerized fans across the US, Canada, UK and Europe and has shared the stage with notable artists including Paul McCartney, Tom Petty, Buddy Guy, Eric Burden, Billy Gibbons, John Fogarty and Robin Trower. Sari performed at the famous Ottawa Blues Festival in front of 25,000 and in Europe she was invited to perform at the world famous Montreux Jazz Festival.

Sari mixes a passion for music and with a duty of social responsibility. She has devoted her talent and energy to music projects of a grand scale for humanitarian causes. Most notable is her work on a "Toast to Freedom" for Amnesty International, where she collaborated with many musical legends including Warren Haynes, Levon Helm, Keb Mo', Eric Burdon and Carly Simon. Sari's humanitarian efforts include work in Haiti and India. She founded "Matters" - a non-profit that draws attention to humanitarian causes through the arts. Sari is a marathon runner and animal rights activist. She currently lives in Brooklyn, New York with her husband and rescued pit bull triplets.



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Sari Schorr

Never Say Never MANHATON

Schorr can sing 'em. All husk and muscle, the operatically trained New Yorker makes you believe every stormy line of this game-raising second album, from the boyfriend-flaying rebukes of *Thank You* and *Maybe I'm Fooling*, to the wistful roar that tees up *Back To LA* as the potential hit. You can't move for belters in the blues scene, but these lungs demand a little elbow-room.

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Sari Schorr

★★★★

Never Say Never

(MANHATON) www.sarischorr.com

It is clear from the lyrical content of Schorr's latest record that while she has plenty to say, it is driven by experience and a passionate honesty for her role of carrying a soul-felt message. That passion is hued by her insistence on recording the album as a live set in the studio. This allows it to be both raw and polished at the same time.

Opening with the sensory switchback of 'King Of Rock And Roll', Schorr pays tribute to Robert Johnson, and then bounces into 'Thank You', a heartfelt frenzy of pained, husky vocal alongside flying guitar solos provided by Ash Wilson. Made popular by Bad Company, 'Ready For Love' fits wonderfully into the stadium feel of the record and leads perfectly into the chorus-driven 'The New Revolution'.

Throwing in a slower number like 'Beautiful' (with Wilson at the top of his guitar slinging game) doesn't stop the momentum, and instead offers a momentary breather until the radio-friendly 'Back To LA' and the fist-pumping 'Freedom' take the set towards its conclusion. *Never Say Never* closes with the moving title track, Ian McLagan's lament on personal loss and a message of comfort for those who truly have reason to have the blues.

Gareth Hayes

RnR Magazine

Powerplay Magazine

Sari Schorr

Interview by Chris Kee

Sari Schorr's new album 'Never Say Never' is a revelation. It demonstrates a remarkable talent that was only hinted at on her very commendable debut. Chris Kee ventured back stage at Sari's recent London show at the Borderline to find out more about the creation of this superb second album.

I'm immediately struck by Sari's warm and friendly personality as she welcomes me into the cluttered backstage dressing room that is her home for the night. It feels more like being ushered into the living room of an old friend and we chat happily for a little while before the tape starts rolling. Still, with time ticking until Sari is due on stage, it isn't long before we turn our attention to the creation of her wonderful new album, 'Never Say Never'.

"You know what's really interesting?" Sari asks. "I didn't realise this until I was doing a written interview for someone and I was thinking, what's changed the most, between when I did the first album and this one? I realised that the biggest difference was the audience, who I'm talking to. I know who my audience is now!" She smiles. "When I was doing my first album, I wasn't touring. I didn't have my own band yet, I was just a song writer. Now, with this one, I want to have a conversation. I feel very connected to my audience. When I started to write things and I became uncomfortable, instead of shying away from it, I would think, wait a minute. If this is uncomfortable, this must mean it's getting interesting and very personal. So why don't I just do this? I'm building a conversation."

"I'm most pleased with the strength of the songs," she says immediately, "because we worked really hard to bring these songs up to this level. One of my song writing partners on this record, who is also my producer, Henning Gehrke, we'd write a great song together with a big chorus and then we'd say 'ok, let's take the chorus and make it a verse - see if we can come up with an even stronger chorus.' Then working with lyrics, we'd make sure that every single word was meaningful."

"I've experienced something," Sari says, "in all those different places and times, there is something very American about this album, perhaps more so than the first album. With songs like 'Back To LA' and 'Turn The Radio On' there's a definite feel of Springsteen and Petty, that Americana touch."

"Oh my God! Thank you so much!" Sari gasps, laughing again. "That's it exactly, exactly. First of all, Bruce Springsteen is one of my biggest influences as a writer, along with Bob Dylan. Bruce is a great lyricist, because he can put big, weighty meaning behind very simple words. A very simple

with pigs and sheep. The studio was an old 19th century converted barn - oh my God, it was so inspiring!" Sari enthuses. "We were able to just shut ourselves out from the world."

The songs for 'Never Say Never' were all written on the road, in a list of locations that includes New York, Spain, Bath, Germany, Wales, Skegness, France and Norfolk! Was that planned?

"No, it wasn't!" Sari replies, laughing. "We are just on tour and the tour keeps expanding. It's just fantastic," she says, sounding genuinely surprised. "We didn't expect this, but it's just sort of skyrocketed for us. We had to respond and when the opportunity is there you just have to go for it. And then at the same time the label said they wanted to put out another record - which is great, as there are not too many artists who have record deals these days - so I was writing while I was travelling and that turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as challenging as it was not being at home, writing in my home studio. Writing this way, all the places and people I met on my travels sort of infused a piece of themselves into the album. When I had my first apartment in Bath, they handed me this key, this old fashioned brass key - it was old and heavy, and I thought, wow! I feel like I'm building roots here. I feel grounded."

"I felt inspired to start writing," Sari says, "and I started to write 'Back To LA'. I don't think that song happened if I wasn't in that connection. So all these experiences, all these different places and times, there is something very American about this album, perhaps more so than the first album. With songs like 'Back To LA' and 'Turn The Radio On' there's a definite feel of Springsteen and Petty, that Americana touch."

"Oh my God! Thank you so much!" Sari gasps, laughing again. "That's it exactly, exactly. First of all, Bruce Springsteen is one of my biggest influences as a writer, along with Bob Dylan. Bruce is a great lyricist, because he can put big, weighty meaning behind very simple words. A very simple

absolutely adore and that defines their existence. I think being a parent is the most amazing and difficult job that you

home changed?" she replies. "When I'm in New York, back in family, that really does home, but somehow I'm at home living out of it. I tell myself that the pre-extended family haven't met yet. It's like I play with myself, it makes me feel when I get into a hotel in, the first thing I tell myself is 'I'm home!' infectious laugh. "Life is hard for a lot of people, but it's actually very hard for a lot of people. It's time for Sari to step up and be where she is on the stage."

Photo: Tom Rowe

Sari Schorr

Doing it old-school style

Arriving, seemingly out of nowhere, onto the scene two years ago with her debut album, *A Force Of Nature*, suggests that Sari Schorr is a newcomer to the blues industry. That couldn't be further from the truth for she's served her dues-playing clubs, bars and theatres around her New York City home for longer than she cares to remember.

"Mike Vernon discovered me in Memphis when I was there with the Blues Foundation for the International Blues Challenge," she says. "I wasn't performing but I was asked to sit in that evening and Mike saw me. I had been doing my thing forever, back in New York, and I was happy that I was able to do music, even though I hadn't been lucky enough at that time to have that break."

Renowned producer Vernon went on to make Sari's first album with her and

with *Never Say Never*, her new record in the shops, they have stayed in touch. "When we played London to launch the new record, Mike Vernon opened for us. If anyone would have told me two years ago that Mike is going to come out of retirement, make a record with you, and that you will perform together in London, then I just would never have believed that."

Her latest album, made with long-time writing colleague Henning Gehrke, is one that she says continues her personal evolution in creating special songs. "When you're on the artistic journey, which is what I've always been on, you never arrive. There is never a defining point where you say you've made it. Every day is a reinvention in a way. There are new people and new experiences and I consider myself a storyteller so I'm just relaying all of these stories of the human experience."

To manage that shift Schorr recruited a new band and insisted on recording the record as a tighter-than-tight live set, albeit in a studio setting. "The secret to creating that kind of intimacy is that you put a band together in the studio and you record live. Then, what you get on the record is the communication between the band, and the special magic. It doesn't come without

substantial risk because a lot of things can go wrong. I knew what we were like live and I wanted to share that with people through the album and the only way to get that is to do it old-school."

The old-school mantra also comes into play with Sari's performances on the road. These full-on shows always include her signature track, 'Black Betty', and highlight her desire to carry a message in her songs.

"It's remarkable how that song fits for me. I always have a panic when I see it come up on the set list because it is such a big commitment. I am still afraid of not getting the song delivered as it should be. It's an important song. It has such a heavy meaning even though there are lots of different interpretations. For me the story is about a slave. It's about rape. It's about murder. It's about abuse... the tragedy of the human condition."

So, whilst not overtly political, she admits to being on a mission. "That is the most challenging thing. The last thing I want to do is to sound preachy. I can have a tendency to go on and on about stuff I believe in, so I have found a way to package it in an accessible way. I hope it allows people to have a conversation about the topic."

Gareth Hayes

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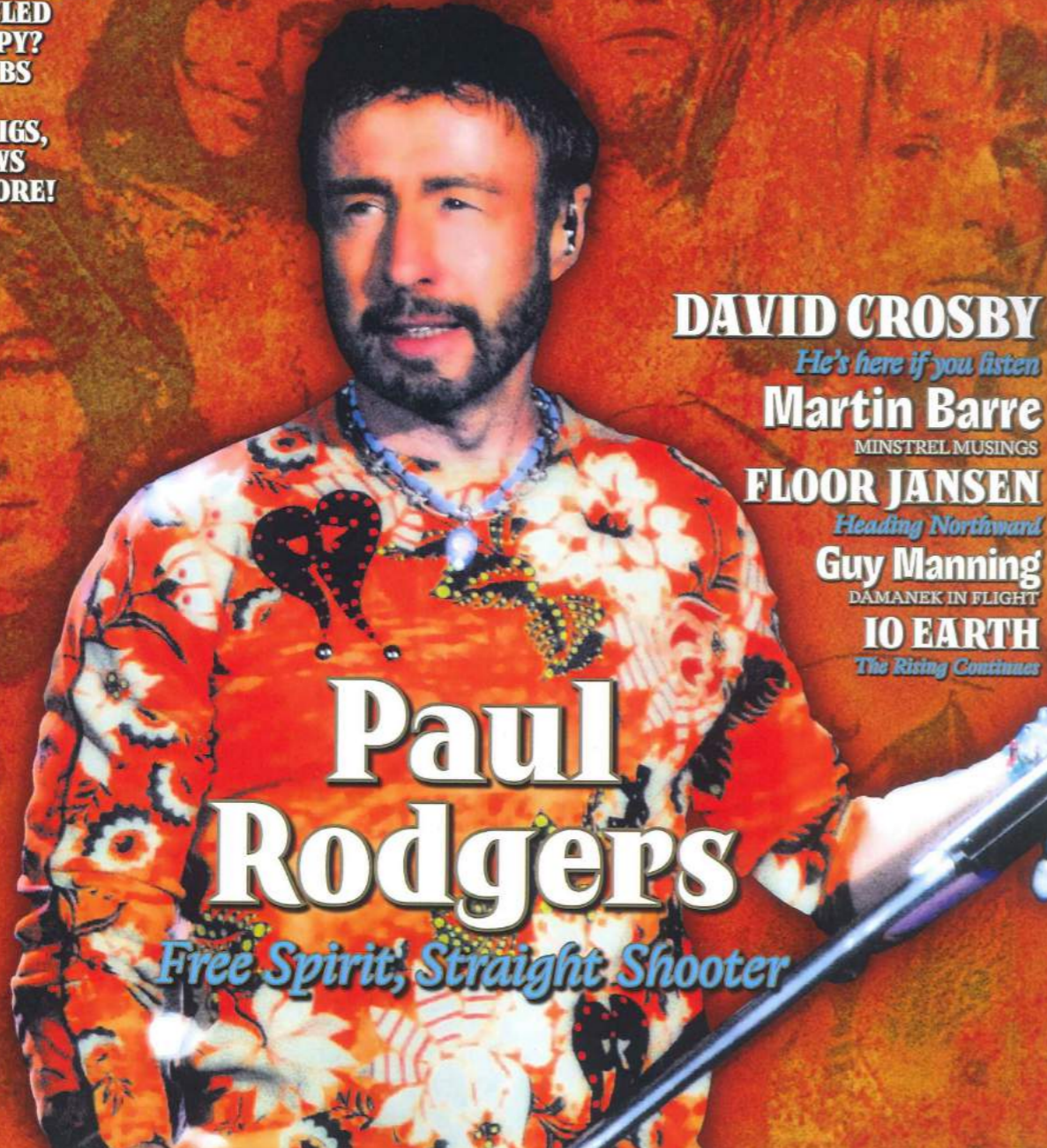
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Sari Schorr

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Sari Schorr

Schorr know something...

What's that you say? **Sari Schorr** is a new name to you? Well, if that's true, and you like a bit of feisty blues-rock, you've been missing out. *RS* made sure to talk with Sari to get the full lowdown on her new album, general approach to music and some forthright political views! Watch this space...

WORDS: GRAEME STROUD PHOTOS: MICHAEL HOEBEL (THIS PAGE), TOM ROWE (OVERLEAF)

Brooklyn blues-rock powerhouse Sari Schorr has spent so much time touring the UK over the two years since her debut album was released, it's a surprise to realise that it's still the only album in her discography – until now that is. Her sophomore release *Never Say Never* is hitting the stores as we speak, taking her into new territory with a new band and a new focus in her songwriting. As she says, "We've put everything into this record – I mean, I run marathons and I've never sweated so much running as I have making this record!"

A veteran of the New York jazz and blues circuit, Schorr's CV already included stints with bluesmen Joe Louis Walker and Popa Chubb, as well as an induction into the New York Blues Hall of Fame, before her first album in 2016, *A Force Of Nature*. That, in turn, may never have come about were it not for the intervention of renowned veteran blues producer Mike Vernon, who reportedly came out of retirement in Spain with a mission to present Sari's rich, rasping rock vocal chords to the wider world. "I was really struggling at that time," she explains; "I had just left Joe Louis Walker's band, and I had a deal with a label

which was on the verge of collapsing because they couldn't get funding; we were halfway through making a record and I was as usual, hanging on by a thread."
The story includes some right-place-right-time serendipity for sure, but as they say, you make your own luck, and Sari's story only proves that point. "I was in Memphis for the International Blues Challenge; I was not competing, but I was there to support some of my friends and the Blues Society. I was invited

CONTINUES OVER →



A Force Of Nature - Sari on stage

to a luncheon where they were honouring the people of the industry behind the scenes that make everything happen – the producers, the record companies, agents, promoters, radio, press etc. I almost didn't go because it was an expensive ticket but I definitely wanted to attend and I thought you know what; I'll make up the money somewhere else, I'll skip dinner for the next three weeks ... so I went!"

Of course, these events are also an opportunity to network and get your name known, but self-promotion is apparently not Sari's strong suit. "When Mike Vernon got up to speak and accept his lifetime achievement award, he made it very clear that he was retired and living in Spain. I thought that is the only person who can do nothing for your career, so don't introduce yourself to Mike, focus on a more practical solution – but Mike was the only person I really wanted to meet! So I went up to him afterwards and congratulated him; I never told him I was a singer, I just said I love your work, blah blah blah, and then left the room."

As it happened though, Sari had been invited to perform as a guest singer at a prestigious event nearby, and Vernon was also in attendance. That was the occasion that, in Sari's own words, changed everything. She met Vernon again the next day and he asked her to send him a couple of songs.

"First of all Mike was shocked because he didn't know I was a singer; I didn't even tell him my name. At that time when I was working on a record, the label had partnered me with a producer that I was not comfortable with. There was no rapport and I really didn't think that it was going to be a good collaboration. I got up the courage to tell the record company and was basically told to stop complaining because this is the best you can get – it's not as though you would ever get to work with Mike Vernon! How ironic, right? I think it was six months later I got that phone call from Mike saying 'OK, I've listened to your material and I want to make a record with you, I'm going to come out of retirement to do it. It's criminal that you just haven't had your lucky break yet; all you need is one person to kick the door open for you!'"

VERNON BUILT A BAND AROUND HER and although the personnel were not nailed in place, they included some hot names. Sari ended up dubbing the band The Engine Room, and they are credited as such on the debut album. "The Engine Room actually came about because I had a show in New York City at the Cutting Room," she explains. "At that time my drummer was Jerry Marotta, who has worked with Paul McCartney and Peter Gabriel. Bernard Purdie is a friend of the keyboard player I was working with, and he said he wanted to come and sit in with us. So I thought oh my God, I've got Bernard Purdie who is the drummer behind a lot of the Aretha Franklin recordings and all the RnB hits from the '70s and '80s – with those two guys in the band, I thought I had to give them a name! And I came up with the Engine Room. When I made *A Force of Nature* I did not have a live band yet; it was a band that Mike Vernon put together for me."

Thus it was that the album was recorded with a raft of musicians; all those who would end up in her touring band plus sessioners local to the studio

in Spain where it was recorded; John Baggott of Massive Attack and Portishead on keys and with guitar supremo Walter Trout guesting on his own composition Work No More. Vernon had worked with guitarist Innes Sibun, whose credits include recording with Robert Plant no less; Innes was invited in as a guest and ended up joining the evolving Engine Room combo on tour. As it happens though, the intense touring had quite an effect on Sari's songwriting and on her band. "When I was writing that first album, I didn't know who my audience was. I was always in the support role; the artist I was working for, I knew who their audience was, but I didn't have a sense of my own audience. Now in the two years that we've been touring non-stop, I really feel as though I know who my fans are; I love them and I feel so connected to them that when I am sitting down to write, I'm thinking of them, I'm thinking of myself as the storyteller, and what is it I want to say to these people I'm going to have this musical conversation with? And because I feel this sense of comfort in the hands of my audience, I was able to go to places which were much more vulnerable for me – and go to places where I feel I could be much more honest."

THE CONSEQUENCE HAS BEEN A SLIGHT change of musical direction; the first album was definitely blues-rock rather than purist blues, but the new set has even more of a rock-oriented and lyrical bias. She came back for the second album with an all-new band, featuring up-and-coming hot-shot Ash Wilson on guitar, despite the fact that he is doing perfectly well fronting his own band. Flat-capped Mat Beable performs bass duties, Dutchman Bob Fridzema, late of King King, sits in on keys and Roy Martin takes over the drum stool. "The new songs I was writing required a new approach, and the timing – Bob had just stepped out of King King, Matt Beable was also changing his situation, I had just met Roy Martin in Liverpool; I heard him playing a concert and I asked him to open for me in London. I was just blown away by him, and it was incredible how these five people, their lives and their journey just aligned with mine at exactly the right time. Serendipity. But out of respect to the previous band I felt I should leave the Engine Room name alone now."

Sari's route into blues and rock was by no means pre-defined. She was concentrating more on jazz in her early career, and in fact trained under an operatic voice coach. Her problem, strange as it may seem, is that her voice was too powerful for the material she was working with, as she explains, "I was always interested in jazz and blues. But listening to these opera singers, the power and the stamina that they had – I thought if I trained my voice, I had the feeling that it could serve me well later on. And boy has it ever! My feet get tired and I probably need more comfortable shoes, but I never have a problem with my voice. I really credit Gloria Hildbourne who taught me how to use my voice properly. She begged me to go into opera because I had a ridiculous range just naturally, it was a gift, it was five octaves and I didn't even know what I was doing. The problem was that when I was singing jazz, I was always overpowering the band, and I even did a recording session laying on my back in the studio to try and

diminish the sound of my voice! I always wanted to be petite, to be shorter, so my posture sucked, but it was the same thing with my voice, trying to make it smaller, smaller smaller – until finally I discovered the classic female blues singers like Ma Rainey and Bessie Smith, and I thought oh my goodness, this is where I belong! I could relate to these other women who had these big voices! And then that was it!"

Sari is graciously grateful to all the collaborators who have helped bring her into the spotlight over the recent past. Mike Vernon vacated the producer's chair having fulfilled his promise to give her the exposure she needed, so the new opus was produced by one of Sari's long-standing colleagues, as she explains: "I am lucky enough to work with some great songwriting partners. Henning Gehrke, who was also my producer for this record; he and I started working together years ago. He's a very accomplished songwriter and producer; he's got a fabulous studio in Germany where we do our best work together. He knows how to push me right to the limit."

There is no doubt where her deepest gratitude is directed though; Mike Vernon has produced some of the greatest and most influential albums of the British blues boom and beyond, including 1966's iconic 'Beano' album by John Mayall's Bluesbreakers featuring Eric Clapton, and most of the Peter Green-era Fleetwood Mac. He now fronts his own 40s/50s influenced rock 'n' roll band, which supported Sari on her recent UK tour. "The genius of Mike I have to tell you, is his ability to get the best out of the musicians who he works with. I've worked with a lot of different producers and some create a hostile or intimidating atmosphere thinking that the artist will just create the best out of spite! Mike creates a very nurturing, safe environment and is able to create this wonderful and inspiring atmosphere. When you start recording, he hears the record finished! Although he doesn't play guitar, he can tell a guitar player exactly what will work in the framework of the song. He doesn't play drums, but he can tell the drummer what the group might do at a particular point to push the song through. He's also great with arrangements, cutting things out, adding things in other places."

It has already been mentioned that Sari's recent material has diverged from blues to the point that it is now much more in the rock arena. A couple of songs on the album borrow from the politically-motivated 1970s protest movement, with a notably political leaning. I venture to ask whether she feels strongly about social issues?

"The Sandy Hook massacre is something I can't shake from my heart. I don't want to try; I don't want to forget it"

"I do, very much so. If I wasn't involved full-time in music, I would be an activist! I've done humanitarian work in India and other places. I'm very upset about the lack of logical gun control law that we have in the country, and the amount of needless pain and suffering it causes; they don't make sense, that's what the song Freedom is about. The Sandy Hook massacre is something I can't shake from my heart. I don't want to try; I don't want to forget it. To know that so many children – children! – lost their lives senselessly as their teachers tried to protect them. So if I can write about it, it's not going to bring back at least 20 children and six adults who lost their lives in Connecticut, but what a tragedy, that should never have happened. Semi-automatic assault rifles! They make absolutely no sense, and the fact that we can't ban them is pathetic. It's shameful. And The New Revolution; I started to write that when Trump started to come on to the scene." Sari probably needs to be interviewed by some other magazine with a different focus in order to fully

publicise her political leanings, but I can reveal that she is not a fan of the current President. But rather than turn The New Revolution into a bitter rant, she chooses instead to turn the situation on its head and accentuate the positive.

"I think it's really hard to get people's attention when you scream and shout your frustration, so I try to find a way through my songs to try to talk about the biggest contrast to Trump's policies – Martin Luther King, who did so much for civil rights for the disenfranchised; he cared about African Americans; he cared about the poor, he cared about the people who were suffering, and to do it in a way that was non-violent, peaceful protest. He is one of my idols. I dedicate that song to him; we don't really realise how much personal sacrifice he had to make. He was constantly under threat of assassination, they blew his house up about six or seven times, maybe eight times, but he didn't give up. What an inspirational story. We need to focus on people like this, because that is the way we can educate ourselves."

One of the highlights of the first album and every live show is her rendition of Black Betty, a song popularised in the 1970s by Ram Jam, but usually credited to Louisiana folk singer Lead Belly. The origin of the title is as obscure as the meaning of the lyrics, but its association with African-American culture chimes with Sari's social conscience and it has arguably become her signature tune. She explains how she became associated with the song and what it means to her. "I was asked to perform at Carnegie Hall on the Lead Belly Fest and the producers chose the song for me. I nearly had a nervous breakdown, because I thought I'm going to be singing in a gown, at Carnegie Hall, the Ram Jam version with an orchestra! I don't know how this is going to work! So I hit the books to figure out, who was Lead Belly, why was he writing this song like this, what does it mean? And there are so many interpretations of this song. Some people think Black Betty is a wagon, some people think it's a horse, there are really lots of different interpretations of it. But for me, Black Betty is a slave. It's a story of a rape and a murder and it's about human suffering; that's how I was able to find my own voice for the song, and I have to get it perfect every time."

Sari's version is slow and soulful, and as far from Ram Jam as it is from Lead Belly. "Every time I do it, it still hurts, because it takes me into an emotional place that should be painful, because it's not acceptable; the kind of suffering that so many people have had to endure over 300 years in our American history. I read a novel that described a technique the masters used to use on their slaves to teach them obedience. They would tie a rope around their ankle and around their neck, so they would have their knee bent behind them with their foot up against their backside. They would leave them in the middle of the courtyard in the blazing hot sun and the dirt and they would have to stand there for hours in agony. If they fell, well they would choke themselves to death. So when I sing that line Jump steady Black Betty, that is what I'm seeing in my head, so it's a song that has such a powerful emotional current running through it. After Ash and I do it, at every show we turn to each other and say 'We did it! OK, now we can breathe and get through the rest of the show', you know'."

IT'S BEEN A LONG ROAD FOR SARI TO find recognition and validation in her chosen career. But do we really need 'someone to kick the door open' for us, as long as we are doing what we love? Sari takes a balanced and realistic approach. "I had always wanted to find that, but at the same time I kept telling myself be grateful that you are doing what you love, even though you're still working in little blues clubs in the back streets of little towns somewhere. It's still music, and if you respect the craft, and you respect the audience, then it's OK. But I have to say there is something so rewarding about being able to bring my music to a lot more people!" Amen to that! ☺



SARI SCHORR'S LATEST ALBUM **NEVER SAY NEVER** IS AVAILABLE NOW VIA MANHATON RECORDS. WWW.MANHATONRECORDS.COM



Never one to sit on the fence: Sari Schorr, looking sultry in the gloom...

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Sari Schorr

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SARI SCHORR

Kämpferin gegen alle Widerstände

Von Ami Zapf • Mit machtvoller Stimme und illustren Mitstreitern schickt die junge New Yorkerin Sari Schorr sich an, eine Bresche in die Männerdomäne Bluesrock zu schlagen. In Zusammenarbeit mit der britischen Produzentenlegende Mike Vernon hat die Powerfrau aus Brooklyn ein Debütalbum vorgelegt, das sie als reife, selbstsichere Vokalistin zeigt. bluesnews sprach mit der tatendurstigen Senkrechtstarterin.

bluesnews 07 • October 2016 51

UNCOVERED Sari Schorr: No Giving Up

To some residents, a new album or a new tour can become something that has to be done. For Sari Schorr, it's a lifestyle. She's got that bluesy, soulful sound that's been around for decades. She's got that raw, honest sound that's been around for decades.



"A lifetime of experience channeled into my music."

...the blues scene. She's not just a singer, she's a performer. She's got that bluesy, soulful sound that's been around for decades. She's got that raw, honest sound that's been around for decades.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT Thursday, May 19, 2016



Sari Schorr at Arlington Arts last Thursday

Can you feel the force?

High-powered rock from New Yorker and band

Sari Schorr's 2016 album *A Force of Nature* is a very aptly titled. She's got that bluesy, soulful sound that's been around for decades. She's got that raw, honest sound that's been around for decades.

SARI SCHORR

A FORCE OF NATURE Mavericks Lauren Bennett speaks to Sari Schorr about the release of her debut album, and on staying true to herself in the music world.



Sari Schorr is a force to be reckoned with. She's got that bluesy, soulful sound that's been around for decades. She's got that raw, honest sound that's been around for decades.

SARI SCHORR

A FORCE OF NATURE



Sari Schorr is a force to be reckoned with. She's got that bluesy, soulful sound that's been around for decades. She's got that raw, honest sound that's been around for decades.

★ REVIEWS ★

"Sari Schorr is one of the best contemporary blues-rock singers in the world."
– RAW RAMP

"You could very easily run out of superlatives to describe what must be one of the best female voices..."
– TWO FINGER MEDIA

"A future of potential and possibilities has opened up in front of Sari Schorr with this new album and her live shows are becoming unmissable events."
– POWERPLAY

"Schorr's singing soars...Singers and players don't often combine to create a consistent and extraordinary album of well-judged songs and performances such as this. Never Say Never indeed."
– THE DAILY EXPRESS

"Anyone who has heard Sari's 2016 debut album or seen her on tour will be well aware of her rich, rocky voice and consummate power-blues ability, which arguably puts her in the genre's premier league."
– ROCK SOCIETY

"Sari Schorr has taken the UK scene by storm...she's going places...don't miss out if you haven't seen her yet!"
– BLUES IN BRITAIN

"There were plenty of Sari Schorr virgins, now converts, in the room who were simply mesmerized by the talent before them."
– MNPR MAGAZINE

"High-powered rocking blues and staggeringly strong vocals. A great show from a singer who truly deserves all the accolades she is receiving in the press. ...it is no surprise that she is collecting awards by the bucketload."
– ARLINGTON ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

"Her gently frayed mezzo, at times reminiscent of Janis Joplin, packs quite a punch. And, like Joplin, she's not afraid to push her voice to lung-bursting limits...With charismatic vocals set against hard-driving blues-rock... the blues world at large—should take note."
– LIVING BLUES

"New York born Sari Schorr has a voice and vocal range that most people only dream of having. Inducted into the New York blues hall of fame her performances on stage are extra special; she not only loves to perform but she also loves her audiences: she captivates them with her stories and her marvelous vocals... She is also a fantastic song writer with stories of bad times and wrong choices."
– JACE MEDIA

"There is something fitting, perhaps, about seeing Sari Schorr in an old Church as Easter Weekend looms - and if we were to torture the analogy any further, we could maybe say that she has the voice of an angel too."
– MAXIMUM VOLUME MUSIC

"...one of the best prospects to break through for "big-voice," female rock and blues vocalists, since the likes of Dana Fuchs and Beth Hart. A Schorr-fire winner."
– MUSIC REPUBLIC MAGAZINE

The Guide

SUNNY OUTLOOK
Kinks musical set to take over Manchester
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Schorr fire hit!

Sari's ready to set Blues world alight



IT is not by accident that Sari Schorr's debut album is titled *A Force of Nature*. The same could be said about the New York singer herself who with her band Engine Room will be at the Great British Rhythm and Blues Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Sari Schorr possesses one of those voices which has the capacity to melt you, move you and at times even frighten you with its power and range. And yet to talk to she's a delight, an infectious laugh punctuating her conversation. Now she's currently one of the hottest properties in the blues rock world. "It's absolutely the right time for me now," said Sari, who has previously sung with the likes of Joe Louis Walker. But, as fans who come to see her in Colne will wonder, what has taken her so long? "Part of the problem for me was I've never been ego driven," said Sari. "I loved being part of someone else's band, it was like stepping into a pre-formed family and I loved working for other people." Even now, as a named artist in her own right, Sari (she's named after her grandmother Sarah but her father changed the spelling) still shows a charming lack of ego insisting that her band has its own name and

By JOHN ANSON
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shares her billing. "I wanted my band to have an identity," she said. "They are all so highly accomplished and highly talented," she said. "We have the same vision and we want this band in its entirety to enjoy being

together for as many years as possible. As long as people want us, we will come." It's the album *A Force of Nature* which has got the music world buzzing. The catalyst for Sari's emergence into the spotlight was meeting legendary British producer

Mike Vernon at an awards ceremony in Memphis last year. Vernon, who has worked with the likes of Fleetwood Mac and John Mayall, was being recognized at the International Blues Challenge after officially retiring to Spain. Continued 29

RISING STAR: Sari Schorr (Picture: Rob Mackinnon)

Festival adds Sisters to the mix as ticket demand high

SISTER Sledge have been added to the line-up for the Mix Tape night at Lytham Festival next Friday. Sisters Debbie, Joni and Kim replace the Earth Wind and Fire Experience on a line-up which includes t.i., the Village People and Les McKeown's Bay City Rollers. Demand for all the headline events on the main stage of the Proms Arena on Lytham Green



HEADLINERS: Sister Sledge has been exceptionally high. Only a few day tickets for the Mix Tape night and for Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds on Thursday remain and Bryan Adams next Saturday is sold out. The West End Proms event next Sunday again has only a few tickets remaining. Tickets still remain for festival events on the Pavilion Stage including country duo The Shires on Tuesday and X Factor winner Matt Cardle next Thursday. There will also be a world and jazz stage and stage too showcasing up-and-coming artists. Details of the full line-up and ticket updates are available from lythamfestival.com Drop the Floor 27 The Dolls 34



Sari Schorr at Arlington Arts last Thursday Pictures: Laurence Harvey laurence@hmvphotos.co.uk

Can you feel the force?

High-powered rock from New Yorker and band

SARI Schorr's 2016 album *A Force of Nature* is very aptly titled. She can really belt out the blues and possesses a five-octave vocal range that allegedly tempted legendary producer Mike Vernon (David Bowie, Eric Clapton and Fleetwood Mac among others) out of retirement to work with her. Add to this a superb line-up of hugely talented British and Dutch musicians in her band and it is no surprise that she is collecting awards by the bucketload. Born in Brooklyn, New York, she opened her set with the storming *Welcome To The New Revolution*, which is due to feature on her much-anticipated yet-to-be-released second album, followed immediately by *Damn The Reason* and the stunning *Demolition*

Music
Sari Schorr, at Arlington Arts, Snelsmore, on Thursday, May 3
lead guitar riffs and swirling Hammond organ and you are on the way to understanding why Sari is creating
Think Janis Joplin with a dash of Tina Turner, backed by a seriously-

such a stir in the blues/rock world. Her cover of the Willie Dixon classic *I Just Wanna Make Love To You* was incredible, while her version of *Black Betty* (which was chosen for her to perform at a celebration of Leadbelly), is fast becoming a signature piece for her and was absolutely stunning. *Rock And Roll*, originally by Led Zeppelin, was epic and *Maybe I'm Fooling*, from the forthcoming album, was yet another highlight in a great set that fittingly ended with not one, but two encores, *Thank You and Valentina*. High-powered rocking blues and staggeringly strong vocals. A great show from a singer who truly deserves all the accolades she is receiving in the press.



★ REVIEWS ★

"Sari Schorr is simply too good to be typecast. She is blessed with an incredible voice - one so good, in fact, that it is time to stop saying she has the best voice in blues as we have before on this site - quite simply she has just about the finest voice in modern music."

– MAXIMUM VOLUME MUSIC AT MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL

"The future of blues is in good hands. Sari is a gift to all of us from the Blues Gods."

– BLUES MATTERS

"Dirty blues; gritty vocals, and a deep personal commitment have catapulted New Yorker, Sari Schorr, into the spotlight as one of the hottest new blues rock singers... She's a major new player on the blues scene."

– EDINBURGH JAZZ FESTIVAL

"That incredible voice she possesses seems god-given, much like the way Bonamassa has a god-given talent to play the guitar, Sari Schorr has been blessed with a voice not of this world."

– DEVIL'S GATE MEDIA

"There is always something a bit more special in watching someone like the American singer/songwriter Sari Schorr performing live. Every show from this amazing artist comes always with everything and even more you may possibly expect from a concert. It is not just the notoriously thunderous and impressive quality of Schorr's vocals or the depth of emotional intensity that constantly emerge from her songs but there is also a unique human factor that shines through any of Sari Schorr's live performances, something that put the American artist always on a higher pedestal in comparison to other artists."

– BLUEBIRD REVIEWS

"Schorr delivers every number with typical passion and intensity, morphing her sterling voice to suit each song. At times her vocals are smooth, bewitching, and at other moments they are raw and full of grit."

– ROCK AND ROLL TRAFFIC

"This has to be one of the strongest blues performances I have ever seen and I have witnessed many. Mark my words this woman is going to be huge, she has broken out from her native New York and the world best just sit up and pay attention. This band live needs to be on everyone's bucket list...if you want to hear a voice that can rip your heart to shreds and fill it with love all in one performance there's nowhere else to be."

– JACE MEDIA

"A lot of buzz has surrounded Sari Schorr since she first stepped foot in the UK. Her debut album was the highest new entry in the Official Jazz & Blues Albums Chart Top 30 this week. It is no surprise, given her rapid rise in popularity, she is playing in front of a full house as the blues faithful descend upon Darlington."

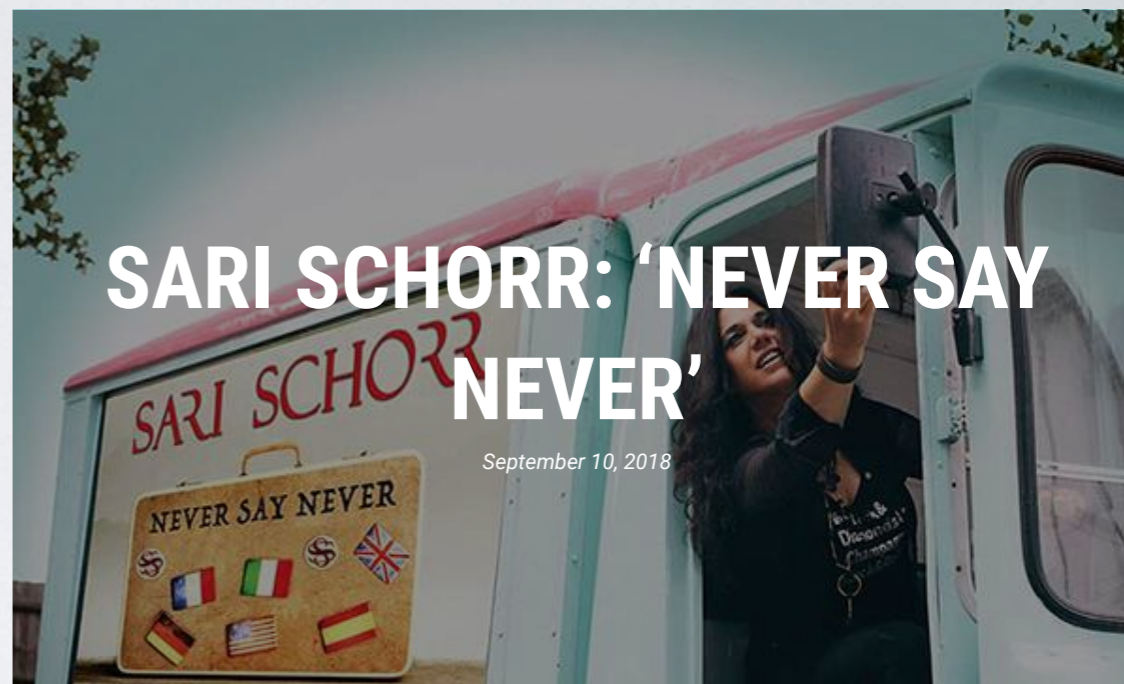
– NATIONAL ROCK REVIEW

"Sari Schorr is a force of nature, a meteor, a comet, and the blues speak through her...the real dirty sad funny wonderful blues, lives again! She's got an amazing voice and sang with fire and grace. Go see her, and hear the living blues again, for the very first time."

– NYACK NEWS & VIEWS

"Not only has the lady got one hell of a voice, but she has something to say in the songs she sings."

– RAMZINE



SARI SCHORR: 'NEVER SAY NEVER'

September 10, 2018



OCTOBER ALBUM OF THE MONTH



I have to confess, I'm not really an ardent blues person; I don't own any corduroy trousers, nor do I drink artisan real ale! But whilst good music pushes genre boundaries - great music blows them away in an open-plan world, where music can be fully enjoyed free of genre labels.

This is the true achievement of the new album by Sari Schorr and her talented band. Whatever your musical tastes, whatever the fashions or sub genres you're into - here is music from the soul that presents the sheer joy of music making.

There's something for everyone - it presents the healing power of music to unite people, in a world where too many exacerbate differences and division.



PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Sari has conquered the UK and Europe. She has performed at major festivals with Paul McCartney, John Fogarty, Tom Petty and Robin Trower. Sari has also performed on numerous radio and television programs and at large scale venues. The following are some of those prestigious appearances.

- ◆ Carnegie Hall - United States
- ◆ Montreaux Jazz Festival - Switzerland
- ◆ London Blues Festival - United Kingdom
- ◆ City Winery - United States
- ◆ B.B. Kings - United States
- ◆ The Iridium - United States
- ◆ The Blue Note - United States
- ◆ Vienna Blues Spring - Austria
- ◆ Great Southern Blues Festival - Australia
- ◆ Mammoth Blues Festival - United States
- ◆ Ottawa Bluesfest - Canada
- ◆ Tremblant Blues Festival - Canada
- ◆ Great British Rhythm & Blues Festival - UK
- ◆ Blue Balls Festival - Switzerland
- ◆ Nottoden Festival - Norway
- ◆ Edinburgh Blues Festival - United Kingdom
- ◆ Colne Festivals - United Kingdom
- ◆ Spirit of 66 - Belgium
- ◆ Big Blues Bender - United States
- ◆ Guitar En Scene - France
- ◆ Ribs & Blues - The Netherlands
- ◆ Muhle Hunzigen - Switzerland
- ◆ Rother Bluestag - Germany
- ◆ Sulwałki Festival - Poland
- ◆ Blues na Śweicie Festival - Poland
- ◆ Skånevik Blues - Norway
- ◆ Paradiso - The Netherlands
- ◆ Blues Festival Basel - Switzerland
- ◆ Frank Rock & Blues Festival - Spain
- ◆ North Atlantic Blues Festival - United States
- ◆ The Half Moon Putney - United Kingdom
- ◆ The Rockhouse - Germany
- ◆ Islington Assembly Hall - United Kingdom
- ◆ Podium De Piek - The Netherlands
- ◆ Musiktheater Piano - Germany
- ◆ Under the Bridge - United Kingdom



THE NEW REVOLUTION OFFICIAL VIDEO

▶ [Click Here](#) to watch it on Vimeo



NEVER SAY NEVER

CHARTS IN THE 1ST WEEK OF RELEASE



Most Played Album Top 40 – Sept 2018

Collated from the playlists of the IBBA Members

Position	Artist	Album
1	SARI SCHORR	NEVER SAY NEVER
2	JAWBONE	JAWBONE
3	HALF DEAF CLATCH	DR. BLOODWORT'S NEFARIOUS MEDICINE SHOW
4	COLIN JAMES	MILES TO GO
5	DC BLUES	MINDING OUR BUSINESS
6	DELTA MOON	BABYLON IS FALLING
7	WHITNEY SHAY	A WOMAN RULES THE WORLD
8	BILLY F. GIBBONS	THE BIG BAD BLUES

Amazon Best Sellers

Our most popular products based on sales. Updated hourly.

Best Sellers in Blues Rock

RAISE YOUR BET
BACKSCRATCHIN'

Official Independent Albums Chart

INDIE ALBUMS TOP 30



The UK's biggest independently released albums of the week, based on sales of downloads, CDs, vinyl and other physical formats and weighted audio streams

TW LW ARTIST/TITLE/LABEL (CORPORATE GROUP)

INDIE ALBUM BREAKERS TOP 20

TW LW ARTIST/TITLE/LABEL (CORPORATE GROUP)

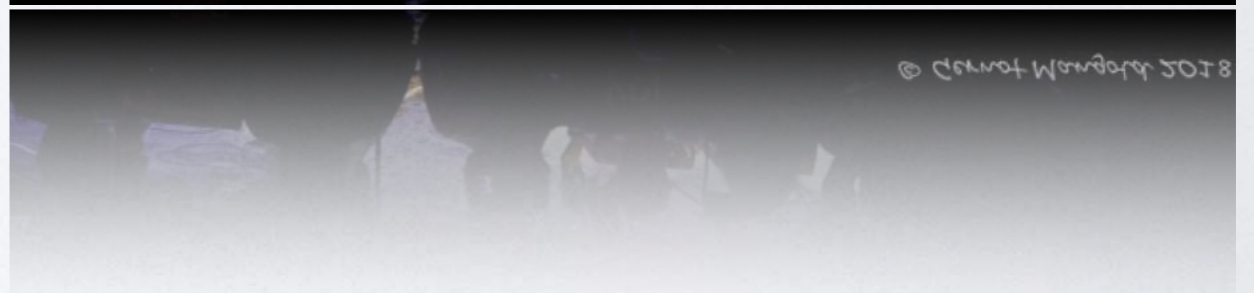
The biggest independently released albums of the week by artists who have not yet had a Top 40 hit, based on sales of downloads, CDs, vinyl, other physical formats and weighted audio streams.

- NEW Behemoth I Loved You At Your Darkest / Nuclear Blast (Nuclear Blast)
- NEW Black Peaks All That Divides / Rise (BMG)
- NEW She Makes War Brace For Impact / My Big Sister (My Big Sister Recordings)
- NEW Phosphorescent C'est La Vie / Dead Oceans (Secretly Group)
- NEW Those Damn Crows Murder And The Motive / Earache (Earache)
- NEW Bad Touch Shake A Leg / Marshall (Marshall)
- NEW Estrons You Say I'm Too Much, I Say You're Not Enough / Gofod (Gofod)
- NEW She Drew The Gun Revolution Of Mind / Skeleton Key (Skeleton Key)
- NEW High On Fire Electric Messiah / eOne (eOne Music)
- NEW John Smith Hummingbird / Commoner (Thirty Tigers)
- RE Blood Orange Negro Swan / Domino (Domino Recordings)
- NEW Fucked Up Dose Your Dreams / Merge (Merge)
- NEW Poets Of The Fall Ultraviolet / Insomniac (Insomniac)
- NEW Adrienne Lenker Abysskiss / Saddle Creek (Saddle Creek)
- NEW Doyle Bramhall II Shades / Provogue (Mascot Label Group)
- NEW Sari Schorr Never Say Never / Manhaton (Manhaton)
- 15 Metric Art Of Doubt / BMG (BMG)
- NEW For King & Country Burn The Ships / Curb (Curb)
- 16 Gerry Cinnamon Erratic Cinematic / LR (LR)
- NEW Miles Hunt The Custodian / Good Deeds (Good Deeds Music)

INDIE SINGLES & ALBUMS

DISTINCTIONS & AWARDS

- ✦ Best Album Nomination European Blues Awards 2018
- ✦ Best Album Nomination Blues Rock Review 2018
- ✦ Best Band of the Year 2018 Top 40 (#2)
- ✦ New York Blues Hall of Fame Inductee
- ✦ 8 Independent Blues Awards Nominee 2017
- ✦ Best Independent Blues Rock CD 2017
- ✦ Best Independent Blues New Artists CD 2017
- ✦ Best Independent Female Blues Artist 2017
- ✦ Best Blues Rock Band 2017
- ✦ Best New Artist 2017
- ✦ Independent Blues Artist Gateway Award 2017
- ✦ Best Independent Blues Stage Performance 2017
- ✦ Best Blues Rock Song 2017
- ✦ WRC Best Live Performance 2017



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