

AL DI MEOLA RETURNS TO RIDGEFIELD PLAYHOUSE

Al di Meola returns to The Ridgefield Playhouse with his Elegant Gypsy & More Electric Tour 2015 on Sunday, June 21, at 8 pm. He, along with his fiery electric band, will deliver the intense jazz fusion as only this world-class guitar deity can. Look for lightning-fast guitar licks that roar with passion and precision. His game-changing albums include *Elegant Gypsy*, *Casino*, *Electric Rendezvous*, *Orange and Blue* and *Tour de Force*.



No. 109 Cheese & Wine will serve a complimentary wine tasting to accompany a local artist's reception and exhibit in the lobby at 7:15 pm. Bernard's (20 West Lane, Ridgefield) is offering a special \$45 prix-fixe menu the night of this event when tickets are presented; reservations suggested beginning at 5 pm. This show is part of the No. 109 Cheese & Wine Evening of

"Art, Wine and Jazz" Series.

What's it like to hear Al di Meola live in concert? A fan who saw him earlier this year sums it up: "Let me start by saying that I have been a fan of Al Di Meola for a long time and this was, I think the 14th time I have seen him perform. Every time I leave one of his shows I say he is at the top of his game yet the next time he always seems to amaze me again. You can sum it up with one word, energy. This band is tight, the performers are all from different stages of Di Meola's history but in a very short time they have gelled to perform a lot of classic tunes and make them sound as fresh as you can imagine. Again, Al is at the top of his game, blazing speed when needed backed up with excellent compositions and melodic interpretation."

For tickets (\$47.50), call the box office at (203) 438-5795, or order online at www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org. The Ridgefield Playhouse is a not-for-profit performing arts center located at 80 East Ridge, parallel to Main Street, Ridgefield, CT. ♪

The Ridgefield Playhouse
80 East Ridge, Ridgefield, NY
203-438-5795
www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org

JENNIFER HARPER RELEASES NEW SINGLE *ALL THE LOVE IN THE WORLD*

BY BRIAN AXEN

With a full length scheduled for a fall release, Jennifer Harper sets off strong with the release of her first single: "All the Love in the World." With a tender mix of contemporary sensitivity and nuanced songcraft, the track captures the tensions that underlie relationship, and the love that struggles and wins to overcome them.

All the Love will be Jennifer Harper's second studio album. Following the loss of her father, Jennifer has turned over a new leaf in both her personal life and music. Drawing from peace activist Daisaku Ikeda, she holds strong to the maxim: "Savor a profound and satisfying life — free from all regret." Jennifer has taken this to heart, hiring an 11-piece string ensemble to orchestrate her new album.

PHOTO: JEAN-PIERRE BOUCAULT



"All the Love in the World" is another side of this same theme: the triumph of love over doubt, frustration and despair. When our relationships begin to crack, it's time to mend them, to infuse them with the positivity on which they were founded. "All the Love in the World" chronicles our willingness to mend.

The song starts slow. A gentle pedal-steel guitar whispers through the intro, conjuring up images of Connecticut at dawn. The subtle piano melody lingers longingly, giving way to the candid yet heartfelt: "I'm sorry to hear you're feeling a bit mad today." Taken at face value, the line is simple, plain even, but Jennifer's assured vocal leaves the listener feeling otherwise, that beneath the lyric is a well-spring of experience and affection, that here is a woman who deeply cares

for the one she loves.

The first verse winds on, with a melody both spacious and redeeming: "I want to be there for you, to ease your frustration," Jennifer proclaims, making way for the full breadth and bounty of the song's chorus: "You deserve all the love in the world."

As the drums kick in and the muted electric guitar tastefully vamps, it becomes clear that the backing band is not your typical session squad. In fact, they are some of the finest recording artists of our time, including producer and drummer Tal Bergman, (Billy Idol, Simple Minds, Rod Stewart), pianist Haim Cotton (Danny Lerman, Ofra Haza, Lipstick Jungle), Dean Parks (Stevie Wonder, Madonna, Michael Jackson) and bassists Darryl Jones (Rolling Stones, Miles Davis, Sting) and Bob Glaub (Stevie Nicks, Carole King, Jackson Browne).

With a cast of seasoned pros, the sky is the limit for Harper's earnest yet effortless alto. The casual though momentous chorus echoes Natalie Merchant; with a voice that is passionate yet refined, strong yet subdued; Jennifer wants to let her heart out while retaining her dignity. The harmonies in the chorus are seamless, and the melodies take subtle turns, leaving the listener both intoxicated and impressed.

One can also hear echoes of The Carpenters, not only in the melodic phrasing and styling, but also in the content itself.

Harper's forthright and honest assuredness is a much-welcome reprieve from the passive-aggression that defines many of today's pop icons. A positive message delivered without irony, sarcasm or jealous undertones is refreshing to the ears — and the soul.

Check out Jennifer Harper's single "All the Love in the World" (now available on iTunes) and Jennifer Harper's upcoming record *All the Love* to be released in September of 2015. ♪

PEARL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

JUNE 20 8PM
THE JONES FACTOR
A TEN PIECE LITTLE BIG BAND
FEATURING JOHN FUMASOLI

JULY 18 8PM
LES PAUL'S TRIO
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF
THE LEGENDARY LES PAUL
NOKI PARBOTT (BASS/VOCALS), LOU PALLO (GUITAR)
JOHN COLUANGE (PIANO)

AUGUST 15 8PM
THE GUTHRIE BROTHERS
SCARBOROUGH FAIR:
A SIMON AND GARFUNKEL EXPERIENCE

FOR TICKETS:
TOWNHALLMUSIC.NET

TOWN HALL MUSIC
AT THE ALEXANDRIA ROOMS/TOWN HALL, 45 MAIN ST., NEWTOWN, CT 07244-0200

Check Out All the Local
BANDS & MUSICIANS
at www.MoreSugar.com