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Feminist Superheroine Leads the Way for Debut Jazz Release

Singer/harpist/composer uses her platform to comment on social issues.

DENTON, Texas - Aug. 23, 2018 - Tomorrow marks the release of “Estrogenia”, debut album of Texas based jazz/fusion musician Anna Jalkéus and her band. The new album groups the singer/harpist/composer with musicians who, like her, use their art to shed light on social issues that are close to their hearts.

The title of the album, Estrogenia, is the name of a feminist superheroine created by Jalkéus. On the topic of why she has chosen to make her album a political statement, she says: “I never even really consciously thought of it as taking a stand against something. Writing music is the way I process experiences and emotions, and I guess recently there have just been so many things happening in society that have given me really strong feelings. The war in Syria and refugee crisis was one of them, and the other big one was the 2016 U.S. Presidential election and the #MeToo movement. Both of those events have songs tied to them on the new album.”

Aside from the album’s lyrical themes, Jalkéus also explores an unusual territory by finding a place for the pedal harp within the landscape of jazz fusion. Fighting against the notion that a pedal harp must be played by a curly haired woman wearing angel wings, Jalkéus does not back away from featuring the harp in more aggressive roles, occasionally using effect pedals to create alternative sounds. “You know, I obviously love the beautiful sound of the harp and how “harpy” certain techniques can be, but I really want to showcase that that’s not all that the harp can do. I am a harpist, but I am so much more than peaceful glissandos. Therefore, the harp must be more than that as well.”

The Anna Jalkéus Group is a septet consisting of Anna Jalkéus, harp and voice, Aaron Dutton and Garrett Wingfield, woodwinds, Ethan Stalbaum, electric guitar, Gregory Santa Croce, piano, Aaron Holthus, bass, and John Sturino, drums. They received a 2017 Downbeat Award as a group, and Jalkéus has received multiple national awards in composition. Tonight they will play a release show at Dan’s Silverleaf in Denton, TX, starting at 8 pm. Visit <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/annajalkeusgroup> to purchase their new album “Estrogenia”.

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