

Nicky Schrire - Short Biography 2022 (300 Words)

Nicky Schrire is a British-South African vocalist and composer based in Toronto, Canada. Her work has seen her likened to vocalists Joni Mitchell and Esperanza Spalding with The Boston Globe's Jon Garelick noting that "though her approach has earned her comparisons to Gretchen Parlato and Becca Stevens, the similarities are superficial...she's got her own thing, and it's very much worth listening to."

A graduate of the University of Cape Town and New York's Manhattan School of Music, she has performed in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, London, Dublin, Paris and South Africa, with musicians including Taylor Eigsti, Ben Wendel, Nir Felder and Florian Hoefner. Touring highlights include headlining the Cape Town International Jazz Festival, performing at Jazz at Lincoln Centre for Carnegie Hall's *Ubuntu Festival*, and having her composition *ESCAPE: The Ingrid Jonker Suite* programmed for the 2022 String Quartet Biennale in Amsterdam (sadly cancelled due to COVID).

Her 2012 album "Freedom Flight" was called "an auspicious debut" by *JazzTimes*, and Nicky's love for the piano-voice duo tradition resulted in the 2013 duo album "Space & Time", which featured Grammy-nominated pianists Gerald Clayton, Gil Goldstein and Fabian Almazan. The Ottawa Citizen's Peter Hum described the recording as "fifty minutes of emotionally eventful, richly crafted music".

Her work as a broadcaster and journalist has included producing and hosting for Toronto's JazzFM.91 station, interviewing musicians such as Maria Schneider and Terence Blanchard for the podcast *The Jazz Session*, and working at CBC Music. Her new album "Nowhere Girl" features Canadian musicians Ernesto Cervini, Dan Fortin, Chris Donnelly (collectively known as Myriad3), special guests Tara Davidson and Laila Biali, and Mozambican guitarist Julio Sigaque. It will be released in 2023.

"Schrire is, by any standard, a remarkable talent...Her voice is a bell, a curve of pliant sound, a personality, a vessel for great songs." – Will Layman, *PopMatters*