

Nicky Schrire - Short Biography 2021

Nicky Schrire is a multitalented and inventive British-South African vocalist and composer based in Toronto, Canada. Her work has seen her likened to vocalists Joni Mitchell, Norma Winstone, 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 and South Africa, with musicians including Ben Wendel, Nir Felder and Florian Hoefner. Her love for the piano-voice duo tradition resulted in the 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".

Recent highlights include headlining the 2018 Cape Town International Jazz Festival with her quintet, and releasing the singer-songwriter EP "An Education" on London folk label Wild Sound Recordings. Schrire will be recording a new jazz album in 2021 with the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts. Her composition *ESCAPE: The Ingrid Jonker Suite* will receive its Dutch premiere in 2022 at the String Quartet Biennale in Amsterdam where Schrire will perform the work with the Matangi String Quartet and award-winning poet and author, Antjie Krog.

"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*

"... Schrire becomes part of the fabric of her music. Her voice is a warm and supple instrument that serves as a dispensary of emotional power."
– Dan Bilawsky, *All About Jazz*

"A number of the most intelligent female vocalists come to mind- Tori Amos, Norma Winstone, Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, etc.-in Schrire's work." – Mark S. Tucker, *FAME*

"We will want to remember [Nicky Schrire]...I was especially impressed by the ease and confidence that Schrire exudes creating her music. This young lady knows exactly where she wants to go." – Martin Schuster, *Concerto Magazine* (Germany)

"... a voice and lyrical ability of great originality...Schrire's voice...which seems to soar and soar with no upper limit, its delicate, translucent tone becoming ever more gossamer as it rises, kite-like, into the clouds." – Matthew Wright, *London Jazz*

"Vocally surprising...Nicky Schrire is the breath of fresh air that we so need."
– Philippe Vincent, *Jazz Magazine* (France)

"While [Schrire's] esthetic may be free and unbounded, her music is anything but casual." – Peter Hum, *Ottawa Citizen*