

MONIQUE DIMATTINA in NEW ORLEANS NOLA'S ARK

“A mature artist who has assimilated the tradition into her unique and singular identity” (Music Forum)

Monique diMattina is back, this time with **Nola's Ark**, her most inspired album to date. Not many women would think it a good idea, while twenty weeks pregnant, to travel to New Orleans and record a new album during the hottest month of the year.

Perhaps she was under a voodoo spell – but the pull for Monique to make pilgrimage to New Orleans, Louisiana – known to locals as NOLA – the birthplace of the Jazz/Roots music tradition – was irresistible.

Certainly the resulting album is hot – fusing stellar musicianship and New Orleans good time sensibility to take the listener on an unforgettable musical journey.

The famed downtown Piety Studios (Elvis Costello, John Scofield, Allen Toussaint) was the vessel for this masterpiece, with an all-star musical crew (all featured in the HBO Treme series) including trumpeter Leroy Jones (Harry Connick Jnr Band) and bass/sousaphone man Matt Perrine (Dr John, Jon Cleary) masterfully steered by producer Mark Bingham (R.E.M., Cassandra Wilson). Zonked from jet-lag and baby-growing, diMattina fell asleep randomly, and often, but the magic of the moment pulled them through. The outcome? Her best album yet!

Nola's Ark is Monique's fifth album and follows the critical success of 2010's **Welcome Stranger**, the songwriters' first foray into the vocal realm – inspired by overseas and hometown experiences alike. This new recording draws on love's labors – relationship vicissitudes, sex and chaos, motherhood – the juggle and the struggle. **Nola's Ark** also includes songs written on her unique 3RRR segment 'Shaken Not Rehearsed', writing and performing original songs, within the hour, live to air according to listener requests.

Nola's Ark echoes Ramsey Lewis, Dr John, Nina Simone and Blossom Dearie in the dance of a mother of two juggling it all – from sweet sonority to chaos and back. Superb.



HEAD170

Nola's Ark is out on **Jazzhead Records**
jazzhead.com/nolasark

www.moniquedimattina.com

ALBUM LAUNCH
SYDNEY: THU 01 AUG

Venue 505, Surry Hills

BRISBANE: SUN 11 AUG

The Box, West End

MELBOURNE: SAT 07 SEP

Bennetts Lane, Melbourne

