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If you were making a mix for our readers, what would be the first three songs you'd select?

<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->

<!--[endif]-->'One More Night' by Stars, 'Alice' by Tom Waits, and 'Nude' by Radiohead.

What do you consider the most essential album in your collection?

'Time After Time' by Eva Cassidy.

Using lyrics from a song or two, what are some words you like?

Wryly: 'he gets on his knees, says please lover, please / i'll kill who you hate, take off that dress you won't freeze.' Is from 'One More Night' by Stars.

You pick...perfect first date album or song to fall in love to?

Once upon a nightcap, I fell in love to Cesaria Evora's 'Regresso'.

Name any musical influence(s)?

Eva Cassidy's range, passion, & precision; Miles Davis's attitude; Bukowski's poetry; Salman Rushdie's phantasmagoria.

What new music are you currently listening to?

Regina Spektor. Oh 'Samson'...

Do you put yourself in any sort of music genre?

No. If someone asks me what I sing, I answer 'jazz and the blues' because that's what I sing everyday—according to mood & what I need to work on in terms of technique. Jette-Ives, though... In a record store we'd share a section with Morcheeba and 8mm.

Is your family supportive of you?

I don't think they know much about my career. I'm around for a few days, then I'm gone for a few weeks. The response tends to be 'Oh...you're back...?'

Would you like to collaborate with anyone in the near future?

Soon, we'll be collaborating with several members of the New World Symphony on a tango. And, well, this is a reach but: I'd like to sing a drink & forget / remember & drink song with Tom Waits.

Can you tell us what it was like collaborating with the New World Symphony?

It was thrilling -Ives & I only ever want to perform with a full String section now! The Symphony fellows are exquisite musicians. We had one rehearsal with them, and it was very relaxed, very easy. We all sat in a circle, the fellows glanced at the sheet music, and we proceeded to have two perfect run-throughs of each song.

Tell us something about you and each of your band member

Matt Lewis, the upright bassist is an awe-inspiring jazz musician. He's also a Viking who knows how to say dirty things in Gaelic. 'Shri ha collum, niarse' is a cheerful phrase I heard this year in place of 'Happy Thanksgiving'. Don't ask me what it means—oh, I know what it mean but I'm not telling. Inquire with a candid Irish grandfather.

Rex Riddem, the conga player—no one has a bigger, more tricked-out bathtub than Mr. Riddem. Rex is superbly kind, calls me 'darlin' and means it. Oh yes—Rex plays with Thunderball and is an artist on For Knox Recordings. (www.rexriddem.com)

Then there's Danny Tait (the drummer)—the world has not yet create a time signature Danny can't immediately, innately, play. Danny has a endearingly quiet—and exceptionally wry—raunchy sense of humor.

Scott Fogelgren (the pianist) has played Carnegie and has sat in with The Naples Philharmonic twice. Scott keeps Oreos in the house, and he good-naturedly opens the door for me at insanely weird hours. Says 'Who forgot to put the diva away last night?'

Holmes Ives is my creative partner and, over the course of making the album, has become one of my best friends. Ives ranks among the kindest, most luminous, patient, talented, skilled people on the planet. However, he doesn't eat chocolate. Which makes me sad. Ives has a myriad projects—www.ovarecords.com and www.holmesives.com tell all.

And me... I dabble in cocktails of whimsy, solitude, Johnny Walker, red dresses, luggage, pastries, and the occasional indelible tryst.

Band

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