

# TIERNEY SUTTON “PARIS SESSIONS”

A 7-time Grammy nominee, Sutton has received 6 consecutive nominations for “Best Jazz Vocal Album” - a nomination for every project she has released for the last decade.

For many years Tierney Sutton appeared in the context of The Tierney Sutton Band, “TSB”, with which she has a recording and touring history spanning over 20 years and 10 CDs. Comprised of Sutton and instrumental virtuosos Kevin Axt, Ray Brinker, Trey Henry and Christian Jacob, the band functions as a true collaborative (and legally incorporated) unit and makes all musical as well as business decisions as partners. In 2011 the TSB received a Grammy nomination for its collaborative arranging, the only collaborative team ever to receive that honor. In 2016 they collaborated with Clint Eastwood on the sound track of his film “Sully” and they also released their 10<sup>th</sup> CD “The Sting Variations”.

In 2013 she released “After Blue”, a jazz-inspired re-imagining of the legacy of Joni Mitchell. The album received wide acclaim and was Sutton’s breakout as a leader without her longtime Band and features Al Jarreau, Hubert Laws, Peter Erskine, Larry Goldings, Mark Summer, Kevin Axt, Serge Merlaud and The Turtle Island String Quartet.

For “**Paris Sessions**” she teamed up with a jazz guitarist from Paris: **Serge Merlaud**, and the bass guitarist of the Tierney Sutton Band, **Kevin Axt**. Sutton first met Merlaud 20 years before the *Paris Sessions* took place (in 1992) on a visit to the City of Lights. “Serge actually introduced me to Bill Evans’ record *You Must Believe in Spring*. And the reason that he played it for me was that I was telling him how profound I thought the Bergmans’ lyrics were. I later ended up meeting Alan and Marilyn Bergman through Jack Sheldon, who used to let me sit in with his band when I first came to Los Angeles. Over these years Alan and Marilyn have become almost like second parents to me, just very dear, very close. And I’ve always regarded their lyric for ‘You Must Believe in Spring’ as a personal anthem of hope. It became a theme for me during a dark period in my life, helping me to know that things were going to get better.”

For their reunion in the studio in 2012, the chemistry between Sutton and Merlaud, alternating between nylon string acoustic and electric guitars, was immediate and magical on the duet numbers -- “You Must Believe in Spring,” “Ilm,” “You’re Nearer,” “Body and Soul” and “Answer Me, My Love.” Axt added his resounding tones on acoustic bass guitar for the seven trio numbers, including bossa nova renditions of “Beija Flor” and Bruno Martino’s “Estate,” Merlaud’s “Izzat” and “Asma.” Axt also contributes some deft chordal comping behind Sutton and Merlaud on “Don’t Go to Strangers,” Ellington’s “All Too Soon” and the melancholy “Don’t Worry ‘Bout Me.” Says Tierney, “We just decided to do a basically spontaneous record. It was just, ‘Here’s a song we’re going to play. Let’s see what happens.’” She adds that there was very little preparation for this session. “Kevin was delayed and only arrived in Paris the day before we were supposed to go in the studio. He had never played a note with Serge but heard him on recordings.

So we did about two hours of rehearsals that evening at 5 o'clock, went to sleep and got up at 8 o'clock the next morning and went to the studio."

Tierney has headlined in recent years at The Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center and Jazz At Lincoln Center. She can also be heard on film and television soundtracks including that of The Academy Award-nominated film "The Cooler" as well as on television commercials (BMW, Green Giant, Yoplait Yogurt, Coke) and recently Clint Eastwood's «Sully».

Live Tierney Sutton «Paris Sessions» presents songs from Tierney Suttons entire repertoire, including the «After Blue: The Joni Mitchell Project».

*One need listen no further than "You Must Believe in Spring," the opening track of Tierney Sutton's Paris Sessions, to grasp that something quite special is taking place between the musicians. This collection of standards and originals recorded in duos and trios between the singer, guitarist Serge Merlaud, and bassist Kevin Axt is a bare-bones journey into the depths of musical intimacy.*

Thom Yurek, Allmusic

*"Paris Sessions is easily the most informal item in Sutton's discography, but the idea of informality shouldn't carry a negative connotation; quite the opposite, in fact. This is a work of unfiltered beauty, successfully pairing vocal temptress with guitar and bass guitar.*

*.... Sometimes it takes the arrival of an album to realize that something was missing in the first place. Such is the case with Paris Sessions. This is the hushed Sutton stunner that the jazz world didn't even know it needed."*

Dan Bilawsky, All About Jazz