

BRAITHWAITE & KATZ

Communications

NEWS RELEASE

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Pianist/Composer Amina Figarova Releases New CD *Blue Whisper*

September 25, 2015 on German In + Out label

October Tour Dates in New York City; Denver, CO; Minneapolis, MN; Cedar Rapids, IA; Columbia, MO

Azerbaijan-born, globe-trotting composer and pianist **Amina Figarova** introduces ten colorful, compelling new compositions performed by her touring sextet plus guests on *Blue Whisper*, her 13th album since her 1994 debut *Attraction*.

Figarova's deeply personal, highly evocative responses to social turmoil, distinctive personalities she's encountered and universal transitions of life inform the music on *Blue Whisper*. Moods range from the haunting beauty of the titular track "Blue Whisper," as well as "Moonrise" and "Hewa" (featuring lyrics in Swahili by Sarah Elizabeth Charles) to the straight-ahead momentum of "Moving Forward," "The Hustler" and "The Traveler," to the sophisticated playfulness of "Pictures," "Marians" and "Juno." In "Hear My Voice," over a martial beat and sorrowful, resolute horn choir, an eight-year-old girl earnestly urges an end to violence world-wide and, with laughter, a request to "Let kids be kids."

Throughout all tracks, Amina's classically founded touch, her lilting melodies, luminous harmonies, often understated yet always propulsive rhythms and star soloists come together with immaculate sophistication. Trumpeters **Ernie Hammes** and **Alex Pope Norris**, saxophonists **Wayne Escoffery** and **Marc Mommaas**, bassists **Luques Curtis** and **Yasushi Nakamura**, drummer **Jason Brown**, flutist **Bart Platteau** -- Figarova's partner and husband of nearly 25 years -- and electric guitarist **Anthony Wilson** (on "Pictures") are featured advantageously in spontaneous, creative engagement with her compositional themes and intentions.

Amina Figarova was born in Baku, Azerbaijan, and as a child studied to be a classical concert pianist. In the late 1980s she entered Rotterdam Conservatory to pursue jazz, coming to the United State in 1989 to complete her formal education at Boston's Berklee College of Music (where she met Platteau, a fellow student from Belgium). In 1998 they were invited to the Thelonious Monk Institute's summer jazz colony in Aspen, and after more than a decade of bookings in major U.S. jazz clubs, concert halls and festivals, the couple gained legal immigrant status in 2014. They currently live in Manhattan, and tour constantly.

The compositions "Pictures" and "The Traveler" were commissioned by Jazz from Lincoln Center for its 2014-15 New Jazz Standards series. *Blue Whisper* is Figarova's second album, after *Twelve*, on In + Out Records, an independent label based in Freiberg, Germany.

Figarova will tour to 5 cities in October:

- Tuesday, October 6 & Wednesday, October 7 – Jazz Standard, New York, NY
- Wednesday, October 14 – Dazzle, Denver, CO
- Thursday, October 15 – The Dakota Bar, Minneapolis, MN
- Friday, October 16 – CSPA Hall, Cedar Rapids, IA
- Saturday, October 17 – We Always Swing Jazz Series, Columbia, MO

Personnel on the CD:

Amina Figarova – piano; Bart Platteau – flutes; Alex Pope Norris - trumpet and flugelhorn (track 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10); Ernie Hammes – flugelhorn (track 8); Wayne Escoffery - tenor and soprano sax (track 1, 2, 7, 9); Marc Mommaas - tenor sax (track 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10); Luques Curtis - bass (track 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10); Yasushi Nakamura - (track 4, 6, 8); Jason Brown – drums; Anthony Wilson guitar (track 5); Sarah Elisabeth Charles - vocals (track 10); Salhiya Bilal Tumba and Shamiyl Bilal Tumba - spoken word (track 3).

www.aminafigarova.com

AMINA FIGAROVA OCTOBER 2015 TOUR
In Support of New CD "Blue Whisper"

Tues.-Wed., October 6 -7 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Tickets: \$25	Jazz Standard , 116 East 27 th Street http://jazzstandard.net/red/index.html	New York, NY 212-576-2232
Wed., October 14 7:00 p.m.	Dazzle Jazz , 930 Lincoln Street http://www.dazzlejazz.com/	Denver, CO 303.839.5100
Thursday, October 15 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$25	Dakota Jazzclub , 1010 Nicollet Avenue http://www.dakotacooks.com	Minneapolis, MN 612-332-5299
Friday, October 16 8:00 p.m. Tickets: \$19 - \$23	CSPS Hall , 1103 Third St SE http://legionarts.org	Cedar Rapids, IA 319-364-1580
Saturday, October 17 8:00 p.m. Tickets: \$25	We Always Swing Jazz Series , 135 Fine Arts Building http://www.wealwaysswing.org	Columbia, MO 573-449-3009 ext. 1