

SUSANGAETA





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PRESS RELEASE

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SOLO CD RELEASE FOR SEPHARDIC SINGER SUSAN GAETA

Washington DC-area resident Susan Gaeta, whose unique singing style is heavily influenced by music of the Sephardic Jewish tradition, has just released her first solo CD in 2005, *From Her Nona's Drawer*. Funded by a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, the disk features traditional ballads and love songs, as well as music and lyrics composed by her mentor, famed Bosnian Sephardic singer Flory Jagoda. In 2002, Gaeta was selected by Jagoda to be her apprentice and to learn songs that had been in Flory's family for generations. ***"I had been singing with Flory for several years, but our formal master-apprentice relationship deepened my understanding of this unique music and my dedication to preserve it for future generations,"*** says Gaeta. Sephardic music originated among Jews in pre-medieval Spain, and retains a strong Spanish flavor. When Spanish Jews were forced into exile in the 15th Century, the music picked up influences from the places to which they were dispersed, such as Portugal, Yugoslavia, Turkey, and Greece. Gaeta sees herself as a creative bridge between the traditional music and its modern future. ***"I'm very excited to be interpreting these age-old tunes for a new generation,"*** she notes. ***"Not only are they beautiful songs, but in many ways, they serve as the oral history of Sephardic Jews."*** In addition to *From Her Nona's Drawer*, Gaeta's remarkable voice can be heard on Jagoda's album, *Arvoliko* which has received significant critical acclaim, as well as albums with Trio Sefardi (www.triosefardi.com).

Learn more about Susan Gaeta, Sephardic music, and listen to her music at susangaeta.com.

BIOGRAPHY

Vocalist and guitarist Susan Gaeta is an important member of a new generation of musicians who are exploring the rich and varied traditions of Sephardic music. Originally from Connecticut, where her grandfather played clarinet in a Klezmer band and acted in Yiddish theater productions, Susan lived in Buenos Aires, Argentina for eight years, where she performed classic jazz and traditional Argentinian folk songs.

After moving back to the United States, Susan continued her explorations in jazz and toured with legendary Sephardic singer Flory Jagoda, a National Heritage Fellow. She also sang with Colors of the Flame, a trio of musicians dedicated to preserving Sephardic songs. In 2002, Susan was selected to participate in The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities "Master-Apprentice" program. As part of the Flory Jagoda Trio, Susan appeared at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC, the Askenazi Festival in Toronto, Canada and historic concerts in Istanbul and Sarajevo. She continues to perform as a soloist, with Flory Jagoda and with Howard Bass and Tina Chancey of Trio Sefardi.

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