

Catherine Russell



Sings The Great American Songbook for Symphony & Pops Orchestra Originally Sung by Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Peggy Lee, Nina Simone & Frank Sinatra

With a career as a vocalist spanning 4 decades and appearances on over 200 albums, Catherine Russell has seemingly done it all. She performed as a member of David Bowie's last touring band. When "The Reality Tour" ended prematurely due to David Bowie's health, it was the top grossing tour in the world for the first half of 2004, according to Billboard. Catherine has backed Paul Simon, Cyndi Lauper, Steely Dan, and Rosanne Cash, all among the world's greatest songwriters, before launching her solo career in 2006, since then releasing 8 albums which reveal her strong affinity for The Great American Songbook, as well as for swing, blues, and rhythm & blues. Her sixth and seventh albums, *Harlem On My Mind* (2016) and *Alone Together* (2019) were nominated for Grammy Awards for Best Jazz Vocal Album.

Catherine first performed as a featured vocalist with a Symphony in 2013, when Michael Feinstein invited her to sing on a Gershwin program, in his new role as conductor of The Pasadena Symphony & Pops Orchestra. The Los Angeles Times raved, "...casting a spell over the 4,000 person crowd...guest vocalist Catherine Russell closed the 2013 season in glossy, old-school fashion...deftly demonstrating her own incisive range. Turning "Nice Work If You Can Get It" into a textbook study of straight-toned panache, delivering "The Man I Love" and "Love Walked In" with a passion that wouldn't shame Shirley Bassey, Russell brought the songwriters' intentions into sizzling focus." Catherine returned in 2015, when Michael Feinstein conducted The Pasadena Pops in a program of Cole Porter, again featuring some of the original Nelson Riddle arrangements of classic Porter tunes originally recorded by Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald.

The following year, Teddy Abrams' (musical director with the Louisville Orchestra), conducted a program on American Music with Miami's New World Symphony, and invited Catherine Russell to sing a spiritual along with "Abrams swinging arrangement of "Feelin' Good"...in which "Russell channeled the bold jazz artistry and scat singing of such icons as Ella Fitzgerald and Nancy Wilson." - South Florida Classical Review

Catherine Russell's Symphony program features Hall of Fame songwriters; the Gershwins, Cole Porter, Hoagy Carmichael, Irving Berlin, and Harold Arlen, with arrangements by the legendary Nelson Riddle, originally done by the likes of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, and Peggy Lee, and now reinvigorated, taking inspiration from the most iconic recordings of The Great American Songbook. In addition, Catherine excels doing material in the Great African American Songbook: compositions by Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, and her father, Luis Russell.

Catherine Russell Pops & Symphony Credits:

- Pasadena Pops conducted by Michael Feinstein (2013, 2016, 2023)
The Gershwins, Cole Porter, Jazz Divas Through The Decades
- New World Symphony conducted by Teddy Abrams (2016) Nina Simone, Spirituals, American Song
- Kravis Center Pops conducted by Michael Feinstein (2018) The Gershwins
- Philly Pops conducted by David Charles Abell (2019) Cole Porter (three sold out nights at the Kimmel Center)
- American Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leon Botstein (2022), Carnegie Hall, NYC All Ellington with Marcus Roberts Trio and ASO
- Greensboro Pops Symphony (2023), Greensboro, NC
John Pizzarelli and Catherine Russell “Billie and Blue Eyes”
Songs made famous by Frank Sinatra and Billie Holiday
- Houston Symphony Orchestra (2024) 3 nights conducted by Steven Reineke
Gershwin Love songs for Valentines With Marcus Roberts Trio and HSO

Catherine Russell Symphony Charts (Partial List)

Cole Porter

Get Out Of Town
Always True To You In My Fashion
Ridin' High (Ella Fitzgerald, Ethel Merman)
Do I Love You? (Ella Fitzgerald)
It's Alright With Me

Gershwins

Nice Work If You Can Get It
The Man I Love
Love Walked In

Jazz & Songbook Divas, etc.

Ghost Of Yesterday (Billie Holiday)
Feelin' Good (Nina Simone)
I Put A Spell On You (Nina Simone)
I Found A New Baby (Ella Fitzgerald)
Satin Doll (Billy Strayhorn)

Catherine Russell has been co-billed as a featured guest vocalist

on Symphony Programs with stars of
Jazz & Broadway:

John Pizzarelli
Marcus Roberts Trio
Lisa Vroman
Ben Davis
Tom Wopat
Nicole Henry
Freda Payne