

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

British-Australian Vocalist Hetty Kate Releases "Jazz in Four Seasons: Vol.1, Spring"

Paris-based artist records first volume in Prague with Czech musicians and traditional cimbalom



While most seasonal jazz albums content themselves with thematic song selection, British-Australian vocalist Hetty Kate has conceived something far more ambitious: a four-volume series that will trace the seasons across continents, recorded exclusively with local musicians in non-Anglophone countries far from jazz's traditional capitals. The first installment, *Jazz in Four Seasons: Spring, Vol. 1*, was recorded in Prague with four Czech jazz musicians and features special guests on violin, flute, and the rarely-heard cimbalom. Released digitally on November 7, 2025 on Lisez l'Etiquette Records, the album is now available on all major streaming platforms, with physical CDs available from March 2026.

This is not a predictable collection of songs with "spring" in their titles. Hetty Kate and her Czech collaborators (guitarist Libor Šmoldas, pianist Jiří Levíček, bassist Tomáš Baroš, and drummer Tomáš Hobzek) have reimagined the repertoire to embody the season's mercurial character. Rodgers and Hammerstein's "It Might As Well Be Spring" unfolds in 7/4 time. Duke Ellington's "I Like the Sunrise" blooms with the shimmering, bell-like tones of Rob Millett's cimbalom, a Central European stringed instrument that adds distinctive cultural texture. A medley interweaves Albert van Dam's "Another Spring" with Jerome Kern and Dorothy Fields' "April Fooled Me," creating the kind of sophisticated pairing that reflects spring's own duality: promise and disappointment, awakening and melancholy. Rick Margitza's arrangement of "Inchworm" brings the heavyweight saxophonist's harmonic sensibility to Frank Loesser's deceptively simple song.

"The digital release coincided with spring in the southern hemisphere," Hetty Kate explains. "I return to Australia annually to tour, and releasing it during Australian spring felt conceptually right. Now, with the European physical release, we complete the seasonal cycle."

When asked why the Czech Republic was the first destination for the series, Hetty continues "Prague holds a particular place in my heart. Years ago, I drove alone from Paris (more than a thousand kilometers) to meet a band for my very first European concert tour which began in this city. Beginning here felt like both a return and a renewal."

The choice of repertoire reflects careful consideration of place and meaning. "Duke composed 'I Like the Sunrise' for Liberia's independence centennial, a hymn to freedom and renewal. The Czech Republic knows resilience, knows what it means to welcome the sunrise. That's why I wanted the cimbalom, a traditional, folkloric instrument heard throughout Central Europe, on this particular song."

The project reflects Hetty Kate's own nomadic artistic life. British-born, Australian-raised, and Paris-based since 2017, she has performed across 28 countries over two decades, from New York's Winter Jazz Festival to Japan's Sapporo International Jazz Festival. She spent five years as featured vocalist with James Morrison's touring band and has sung with the Melbourne, Sydney, Hong Kong Philharmonics, and Czech National Symphony Orchestra. Morrison has described her as having "a stage presence only matched by the clarity of her voice." Although Hetty Kate's 2013 swing album remains one of the genre's top-selling recordings globally, her artistic curiosity has led

her toward more rhythmically complex, harmonically adventurous territory, without abandoning the emotional storytelling and accessibility that have defined her work.

Recorded at Studio Svarov in late spring 2024, edited in Piacenza, Italy, and mixed and mastered by Grammy Award winner Michael Perez-Cisneros, the album benefits the Czech Union for Nature Conservation (ČSOP) through first-year sales proceeds. Future volumes will continue Hetty Kate's exploration of how jazz - that quintessentially American art form - has been embraced and reinterpreted globally, with recordings planned for South America and Asia.

Critics have praised Hetty Kate's vocal precision and poise. "One of the best swing-style singers on the current scene," writes Will Friedwald, while Alain Thomas of Couleurs Jazz notes, "Her vocal line is poised, and her phrasing is precise, on point."

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TRACK LISTING (Total Runtime 55:02)

1. Soon It's Gonna Rain (Harvey Schmidt, Tom Jones) - 5:13
2. A Flower Is A Lovesome Thing (Billy Strayhorn) - 6:11
3. Lady Bird (Tadd Dameron) - 3:07
4. Bein' Green (Joe Raposo) - 4:29
5. It Might As Well Be Spring (Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II) - 4:59
6. Another Spring / April Fooled Me (Albert Van Dam, Jerome Kern, Dorothy Fields) - 4:21
7. It Looks Like Rain In Cherry Blossom Lane (Joe Burke, Edgar Leslie) - 3:06
8. I Like The Sunrise (Duke Ellington) - 4:57
9. Inchworm (Frank Loesser) - 4:36
10. Lesní Studánka (Crystal Spring) (Libor Šmoldas, Václav Pinkava) - 3:34
11. Strange Meadowlark (Dave Brubeck, Iola Brubeck) - 4:45
12. Spring Can Really Hang You Up The Most (Tommy Wolf, Fran Landesman) - 5:40

RELEASE INFORMATION

Digital Release: November 7, 2025 | Physical CD Release: March 2026

ABOUT HETTY KATE

British-Australian vocalist Hetty Kate has released eleven albums and performed across 28 countries over two decades. Featured vocalist with James Morrison's touring band from 2012-2017, she has appeared at major international festivals and performed with orchestras including the Melbourne, Sydney, and Hong Kong Philharmonic. Hetty has been based in Paris since 2017.

CONTACT office@hettykate.com | www.jazzinfourseasons.com

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