

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

“Griesbach achieves her aim of paying tribute not through imitation, but by exploring new possibilities through new artistry.”

~Downbeat Magazine

“Genius. I love this album. From the heartfelt emotion on the ballads to the fun up-tempo throughout the album, Staci demonstrates her gifts, guts and guile.”

~Bobby Braddock (Songwriter)

Celebrate the Music of George Jones as Vocalist Staci Griesbach Honors the Late Country Music Icon’s 90th Birthday with Jazz Tribute Album *MY GEORGE JONES SONGBOOK*

***Singles “He Stopped Loving Her Today” & “The Grand Tour”
Available August 27th with 14-Track Album Out Everywhere
September 10, 2021***

Los Angeles, Calif. (August 23, 2021) – Celebrate the 90th birthday of country music icon George Glenn Jones as vocalist Staci Griesbach reimagines Jones’ catalog in *My George Jones Songbook*, a tribute album available everywhere on September 10, 2021. Set in a jazz context, Griesbach explores all-new interpretations for Jones’ beloved classics from his six-decade recording career including his signature ballad “He Stopped Loving Her Today” and “The Grand Tour,” both which will debut as singles on August 27th.

“George Jones is one of the most iconic vocalists in not only country music but in all of 20th century American music. His voice rang out through the songbook of my youth, but it wasn’t until I started researching and preparing for this album that I really understood his distinctive style and the magnitude of his impact,” Griesbach said. “From his early work before and with Melba Montgomery and Tammy Wynette to his later recordings with Merle Haggard, George Jones’ songbook is one to cherish, and I hope fans enjoy this new take on his classic hits.”

Known for his unique vocal styling and love of ballads, Jones has been called by many “the greatest country music singer.” Griesbach also highlights the multitude of A-list Nashville songwriters who helped create his catalog of hits. Bobby Braddock, who penned Jones’ most impressive and notable career ballad with Curly Putnam, “He Stopped Loving Her Today,” was at top of the list and the first song Griesbach worked on for the album.

“The first working session on this album was back in March of 2020, right before Covid, with pianist and arranger Jeremy Siskind to work out ideas for ‘He Stopped Loving Her Today,’ a tune that’s been called the greatest country music song ever written. I remember driving home that day knowing this version would be something special. When Jeremy sent me the final arrangement, I couldn’t get through the song without breaking down,” Griesbach noted.

“When Curly Putman and I played George Jones’s recording of “He Stopped Loving Her Today,” I thought the vocal performance and production elevated our song two or three notches. I felt exactly the same way, forty-one years later, when I heard Staci Griesbach’s cut. It pushed different buttons than the Jones recording, but just as many,” said songwriter Bobby Braddock who co-wrote the song. “Staci’s rendition is more subtle and complex; she’s singing the same plaintive melody that George Jones sang, but arranger Jeremy Siskind’s accompanying genius piano is not restricted to the song’s original three chords or anything else. “

My George Jones Songbook also features songwriter Jerry Chesnut’s “A Good Year for the Roses” and pays homage to J.P. Richardson, otherwise known as the Big Bopper, for “White Lightning,” with a nod to the Big Bopper’s hit “Chantilly Lace” to introduce the tune. The album also includes two songs Jones co-wrote in his early years, “Why Baby Why” (featuring Nashville fiddle player Stuart Duncan) and “Tender Years” with French lyrics from rock legend Johnny Hallyday, performed with a nod to Blossom Dearie.

Griesbach’s *My George Jones Songbook* marks the first full-length album exploration of Jones’ catalog in the style of jazz, but jazz artists and musicians of all genres have celebrated Jones’ artistry through the decades. Music critic and journalist David Hadju has said, “As a singer, George Jones stands shoulder to shoulder with Frank Sinatra and Billie Holiday in originality and importance.”

Proof of Jones’ influence is seen across genres with covers or duets recorded over the years by Elvis Presley, Elvis Costello, Nancy Sinatra, Garth Brooks, Alan Jackson, Lorie Morgan, Chris Stapleton, among others. Grammy winning jazz guitarist John Scofield recorded “Bartender’s Blues,” James Taylor’s B-side to “Handyman” which Jones covered, taking to #1 in 1978. And, Taylor himself recorded a version of “She Thinks I Still Care,” bringing his singer-songwriter style to Jones’ 1962 hit, which was also covered by Cher and John Fogerty. Both tunes are included in Griesbach’s jazz tribute.

“My hope with this album is to celebrate Jones’ career with his fans, offering a new perspective on his catalog while also presenting another slice of this Great American Songbook of Country Music in an inspired way to the jazz audience,” Griesbach adds. “I’m blessed to work with world-class musicians and arrangers that support my creative journey and help ground my vision in the music. My favorite part of the process is sketching out a broad layout for the album and then finding the right musical voices to help me tell my story.”

Griesbach also pays homage to the time Jones spent with life and duet partner, and country music icon herself, Tammy Wynette. “Golden Ring” and “Take Me,” which Jones originally released by himself, give a nod to that important creative time in Jones’ career.

Cole Porter meets Nashville in Griesbach’s version of “A Picture of Me Without You,” the Norro Wilson and George Richie penned ballad, featuring an arrangement by Tamir Hendelman with introduction from a Cole Porter tune of the same name. Rounding out the album are hit covers “Walk Through This World” as a Brazilian bossa nova (arr. by Otmaro Ruiz), a contemporary jazz take on “You’re Still On My Mind” (arr. by Rahsaan Barber) and a full-throttle band feature for

“The Race is On” (arr. by Jeremy Siskind). Adding to the previous listed four heavy-hitter arrangers for the album is also New York-based Addison Frei who adds his touch to “Why Baby Why” and “Tender Years.”

My George Jones Songbook features 14 tracks from George Jones’ impressive six-decade career:

1. **The Grand Tour** (Norro Wilson, Carmol Taylor, and George Richey)
2. **He Stopped Loving Her Today** (Bobby Braddock and Curly Putnam)
3. **A Good Year For The Roses** (Jerry Chesnut)
4. **He Thinks I Still Care** (Dicky Lee and Steve Duffy)
5. **Walk Through This World With Me** (Sandy Seamons and Kaye Savage)
6. **A Picture of Me Without You** (Cole Porter, Norro Wilson and George Richey)
7. **Golden Ring** (Bobby Braddock, Rafe Vanhoy)
8. **Bartender’s Blues** (James Taylor)
9. **Why Baby Why** (Darrel Edwards, George Jones)
10. **Take Me** (George Jones, Leon Payne)
11. **White Lightning** (Jiles Perry Richardson)
12. **You’re Still On My Mind** (Luke McDaniel)
13. **Tender Years** (Tes Tendres Années) (George Jones, Darrell Edwards)
14. **The Race Is On** (Don Rollins)

My George Jones Songbook features a rich, diverse crew of musicians and engineers from all styles of music including the following (in no particular order):

- **Staci Griesbach** on vocals, background vocals, producer (My Patsy Cline Songbook, My Shania Twain Songbook)
- **Jeremy Siskind** on piano and arranging (Housewarming Project, two-time laureate of the American Pianists Association)
- **Tamir Hendelman** on piano and arranging (Barbra Streisand, Clayton-Hamilton Orchestra)
- **Otmaro Ruiz** on piano and arranging (Dianne Reeves, Dori Caymmi, Arturo Sandoval)
- **Rahsaan Barber** on tenor saxophone and arranging (Kelly Clarkson, Lauren Daigle)
- **Kevin Axt** on upright and electric bass (Natalie Cole, Shelby Lynn, Tierney Sutton)
- **Jake Reed** on drums (Seth MacFarlane, Bill Cunliffe, Johnny Mandel)
- **Stuart Duncan** on fiddle (“The Goat Rodeo Sessions” with Yo Yo Ma, Chris Thile, and Edgar Meyer, as well as Alan Jackson, Barbra Streisand, Diana Krall, Bela Fleck)
- **Rich Hinman** on pedal steel (Sara Bareilles, Roseanne Cash, K.D. Lang)
- **Artyom Manukian** on cello (Kamasi Washington, Melody Gardot, Gretchen Parlato)
- **Bob Sheppard** on woodwinds (Chick Corea, Freddie Hubbard, Herbie Hancock, Diane Reeves, Kurt Elling)
- **Bruce Forman** on guitar (Ray Brown, Bobby Hutcherson)
- **Nando Raio** on bass (Andra Day)
- **Aaron Serfaty** on drums, percussion (Arturo Sandoval, Sergio Mendes, Dori Caymmi)
- **Willie Murrillo** on trumpet and horn arranging (Michael Buble, Stevie Wonder, Josh Groban)
- **Brian Clancy** on tenor saxophone (Gordon Goodwin’s Big Phat Band)
- **Ryan Dragon** on trombone (Herbie Hancock, Quincy Jones)
- **Addison Frei** on arranging (Renée Elise Goldsberry, Janis Siegel)
- **Joe Bagg** on organ (Jeff Goldblum, Bobby Hutchinson, Anthony Wilson)
- **John Hatton** on bass (Brian Setzer Orchestra, Royal Crown Review, Jose Feliciano)
- **Catina DeLuna** on Portuguese translation and vocal coaching
- **Lea Ben Zimra** on French dialect coaching

My George Jones Songbook is produced by Staci Griesbach. Engineering and Recorded by Talley Sherwood at Tritone Recording. Additional Engineering and Recording by Steve Genewick (*Walk Through This World With Me, Take Me*). Engineering asst. Rae Gatdula. Vocals Recorded by Harriet Tam. Mixed by Steve Genewick at the Stewart House. Mastered by Eric Boulanger at The Bakery, Los Angeles CA.

For more, visit www.StaciGriesbach.com or follow on social media: Facebook: @StaciGriesbachMusic / Instagram: @StaciGriesbach / Twitter: @StaciGriesbach / Spotify: @StaciGriesbach

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