

“A confident, mature singer with a voice that can leave you hanging onto every word.” —*TheJazzPage.com*

“Martin says a lot in subtle ways. Her delivery is gentle and emotive, measured and meaningful, and wholly connected to the spirit of each song.” —*AllAboutJazz.com*

Berkeley jazz singer Audrey Martin knows all about the power of a song to provide hope and spiritual sustenance in dark times. A rapidly emerging talent, she reveals a lifetime of hard-won wisdom with her captivating debut *Living Room*. Possessing impeccable taste and a gloriously warm and clear voice, Martin has cultivated a highly personal repertoire encompassing American Songbook gems and singer / songwriter treasures from Laura Nyro, Joni Mitchell, Blossom Dearie, and Abbey Lincoln.

An album of bracing maturity, *Living Room* is not the work of a dewy ingénue. Rather, like some of era’s most incisive jazz singers, Martin dedicated herself to mastering the art form at mid-life. Possessing impeccable taste and blessed with a gloriously warm and clear voice, she makes every note count. More than setting a mood, Martin renders strikingly vivid scenes, from the beatifically becalmed (“Lazy Afternoon” and “Calling You”) to the quietly tempestuous (“I Never Meant to Hurt You” and “Wild Is the Wind”). It’s not much of a stretch to hear her training and experience as a psychotherapist deeply informing her sensibility as a singer.

“I’m attracted to the chance to communicate the emotion of a lyric sensitively and in a deeply felt way, to find my way in the world of a song so that I am speaking to the listener,” Martin says. “As a therapist I hold the deeply felt and personal life stories of my patients, and as a vocalist I get to tell my own story and the stories of others through song.”

Martin has surrounded herself with a superlative cast, including veteran pianist Larry Dunlap, who produced the album and arranged the material. The rhythm section tandem of bassist John Shifflett and drummer Jason Lewis is equally formidable. Reed expert Mary Fetting, first-call percussionist Michaelle Goerlitz, and versatile guitarist Jeff Buenz round out Martin’s cast of collaborators.

“What attracted me to jazz from the beginning was the room it provides for improvisation and personal expression,” she says. “There’s freedom to experiment and make the songs my own, and I can work with these amazing musicians who are in communication with one another on the stage, developing new language while at the same time adhering to the tune.”