

TESSA SOUTER

After her two SOLD OUT performances at London's prestigious Pizza Express, Dean Street, Tessa Souter returns to appear with stellar band at Tribeca Performing Arts Center on March 14 and 15, 2008

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY
MARCH 14 AND 15**

8pm (two sets)

TRIBECA PERFORMING ARTS

299 Chambers Street

New York, NY 10007

Tel: 212-220-1460

<http://www.tribecapac.org>

Quintet with Billy Drummond (drums), Santi Debriano (bass), Jason Ennis (guitar), Don Braden (alto and soprano saxophones + flute and alto flute)
Cover \$25 general, \$15 students/seniors (sixty-plus)

"It's one thing to hear a superb set from a known giant like Randy Brecker; it's a different, particularly exhilarating feeling to witness a great performance by a relatively unknown singer like Tessa Souter. Judging from the ovations she received [on] Saturday night, the entire audience felt the same way." RON NETSKY, ROCHESTER CITY NEWSPAPER REVIEW OF ROCHESTER, NY, INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL CONCERT



"Tessa Souter brings new life to time-honored standards while also mining a creative spark from the unlikeliest sources." TIME OUT NEW YORK

"British-Caribbean jazz vocalist Tessa Souter puts her own stamp on jazz and pop material through sure-footed musical instincts. The phrasing is absolutely serpentine as it slithers around the melodic line of a song. Who else would think to swing Cream's plodding "White Room"? Souter can also render a ballad, like her soul-baring "Here's to Life." She's an important jazz voice at the moment" KIRK SILSBEE, LOS ANGELES BEAT

"Not many vocalists can sing Jimmy Rowles' "The Peacocks" with the beauty and effortless grace of Tessa Souter." SCOTT YANNOV, LA JAZZ SCENE

"A must-see for lovers of world-class jazz vocalizing." DON HECKMAN, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Born in London of Trinidadian and English parents, New York-based vocalist, composer and lyricist Tessa Souter (soo-ter) infuses jazz with the soul and passion of flamenco, Indian and Middle Eastern music. "One of the most imaginatively programmed vocal sets of recent memory," said the **Los Angeles Times**, in a rave review of her California debut at the Catalina Bar and Grill in 2002. The **Philadelphia Inquirer** praised her "amazing" debut CD **Listen Love** and her "crystal-clear voice with diamond-cut phrasing." Soul jazz singer **Jon Lucien** said of Listen Love. "Magnificent! I couldn't stop playing it over and over" Her mentor **Mark Murphy** says of her, "She is a complete musician ... extraordinary and moving." **Sheila Jordan** says, "There aren't many, but Tessa Souter is a natural born singer. She really moves me." Jazz tuba legend **Howard Johnson** says she is "an important musician... whose brilliant lyrics and songs make her stand out from the pack so very much." A late-comer to singing professionally, Souter was first a features journalist for The London Times, The Independent, Vogue, Elle and others. She was one of the original six members, along with Po Bronson and Ethan Canin, of the Writer's Grotto in San Francisco, where she lived and worked as a freelance journalist from 1992 to 1996, before moving to New York and starting to sit in on jazz jams. In 1998 she won a scholarship to New York's **Manhattan School of Music**, which she left to study privately with jazz vocal legend Mark Murphy. WNPX Radio FM says: "It's hard to believe she only recently became a vocalist, because she sings with the authority and passion that usually comes from long experience." To quote Los Angeles-based guitarist **Larry Koonse**, "Tessa Souter has all the qualities I value most in a musician: great time, beautiful phrasing, gorgeous sound, a respect for silence, an emotional connection to the moment, and a wonderful ability to tell a story. She is the 'real thing' in every way."

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