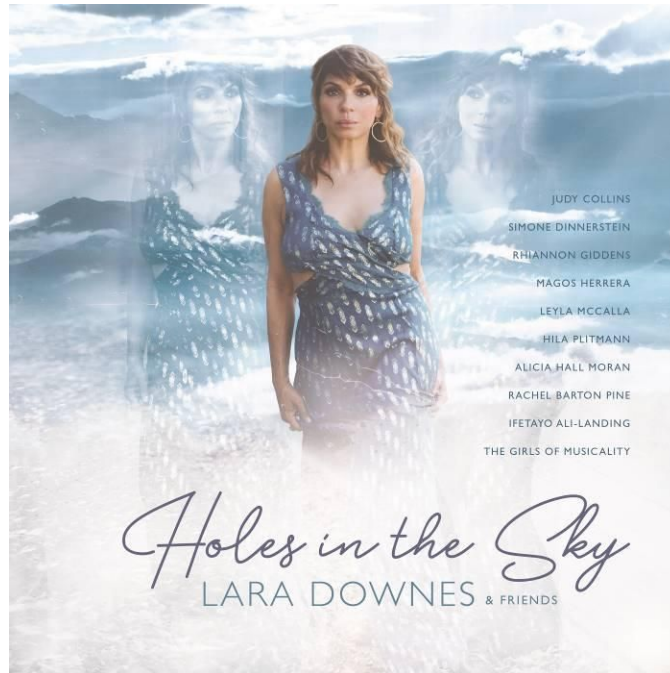


LARA DOWNES

HOLES IN THE SKY

[ALBUM AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE NOW](#)

ALBUM & TOUR EVENTS TO SUPPORT NON-PROFITS INCLUDING PLAN INTERNATIONAL, THE LOWER EASTSIDE GIRLS CLUB (NEW YORK CITY), WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (SACRAMENTO), THE DOWNTOWN WOMEN'S CENTER (LOS ANGELES), AND GIRLS ON THE RUN (SPOKANE)



TRACKS INCLUDE "ALBATROSS," WRITTEN AND SUNG BY LEGENDARY SINGER-SONGWRITER JUDY COLLINS

MARGARET BONDS & LANGSTON HUGHES "DREAM VARIATION," WITH VOCALS BY MACARTHUR GENIUS GRANT AWARD-WINNER RHIANNON GIDDENS

AND MEREDITH MONK'S "ELLIS ISLAND," WITH PIANIST SIMONE DINNERSTEIN

NEW YORK, NY (March 1, 2019) – American pianist **LARA DOWNES** releases her new album, [Holes in the Sky](#), on Portrait, an imprint of the Sony Music Masterworks label. *Holes in the Sky* is a genre-fluid collection of music written and performed by today's leading female artists, celebrating the contributions of phenomenal women to the past, present, and future of American music.

"Smoldering ... inherently yearning ... Downes' keen music choices and her thoughtful performances evoke a brilliantly curated art exhibit." - **NPR**

The music of *Holes in the Sky* tells the story of what women and girls can contribute to the world when they are given a chance - their dreams can make holes in the sky. Lara collaborates with an extraordinary multi-generational group of female guest artists on this album, including the iconic singer / songwriter **Judy Collins**, boundary-breaking violinist **Rachel Barton Pine**, pianist **Simone Dinnerstein**, fast-rising cellist **Ifetayo Ali-Landing**, and the urban youth vocal ensemble **Musicality**.

The album is presented in direct support of **PLAN International** *Because I Am A Girl*, bolstering the rights and empowerment of girls and young women around the globe; **Women's Empowerment** in Sacramento, ending homelessness one woman - and one family - at a time; the **Downtown Women's Center** in Los Angeles, a permanent and supportive housing and healthcare provider for women; **Girls on the Run** in Spokane, teaching life skills through fun, engaging lessons that celebrate the joy of movement; and the **Lower East Side Girls Club**, breaking the cycle of poverty by training the next generation of ethical, entrepreneurial, and environmental leaders.

Lara pre-launched the album in concert on **Saturday, February 23**, presented by **Washington Performing Arts**, and was joined by special guest **Rhiannon Giddens** for the event.

"A charming selection of pieces by some powerful composers - a celebration of otherness, as well as an act of repatriation" - **WASHINGTON POST**

This premiere is followed by a national concert tour. Ms. Downes is also continuing a season-long arts education collaboration with Washington Performing Arts, connecting with school children in the D.C. metro area.

LARA DOWNES – HOLES IN THE SKY

TRACKLISTING

1. Memory Mist* (*Florence Price, 1949*)
2. Albatross - with Judy Collins (*Judy Collins, 1967*)
3. A Tide of Living Water (*Clarice Assad, 2010*)
4. Dream Variation - with Rhiannon Giddens (*Margaret Bonds / Langston Hughes, 1959*)
5. Ellis Island - with Simone Dinnerstein (*Meredith Monk, 1981*)
6. Don't Explain - with Leyla McCalla (*Billie Holiday, 1944*)
7. Willow Weep for Me (*Ann Ronell, 1932*)
8. Venus Projection* (*Paula Kimper, 1990*)
9. Morning on the Limpopo; Matlou Women (*Paola Prestini, 2005*)
10. Farther from The Heart* - with Hila Plitmann (*Eve Beglarian / Jane Bowles, 2016*)
11. Favorite Color (*Joni Mitchell - arr. Nora Kroll-Rosenbaum, 1965*)
12. Notes of Gratitude * (*Jennifer Higdon, 2017*)
13. Arrorro Mi Niña - with Magos Herrera (*Traditional - arr. Lara Downes, 2018*)
14. Music Pink and Blue* (*Elena Ruehr, 2018*)
15. Idyll* (*Hazel Scott, 1946*)
16. Blue Piece - with Rachel Barton Pine (*Libby Larsen, 2010*)
17. Bloom" (*Marika Takeuchi, 2018*)
18. Just for A Thrill - with Alicia Hall Moran (*Lil Hardin Armstrong, 1936*)
19. Aghavni (Doves)* (*Mary Kouyoumdjian, 2009*)
20. What Lips My Lips Have Kissed* (*Georgia Stitt, 2014*)
21. Rainbow (*Abbey Lincoln / Melba Liston, 1992*)
22. All the Pretty Little Horses - with Ifetayo Ali-Landing and The Girls of Musicality (*Traditional - arr. Laura Karpman and Lara Downes, 2018*)

*World Premiere Recording

ARTISTS

Lara Downes & Friends with Special Guests

[Judy Collins](#)

Simone Dinnerstein
Leyla McCalla
Alicia Hall Moran
Ifetayo Ali-Landing
Rhiannon Giddens
Magos Herrera
Rachel Barton Pine
Hila Plitmann
The Girls of Musicality

LARA DOWNES – TOUR DATES

Several album events are hosted in support of non-profit organizations that benefit women and girls, including PLAN International, Women's Empowerment, the Lower East Side Girls Club, Girls on the Run, and the Los Angeles Downtown Women's Center.

DATE	CITY, STATE	VENUE	INFO
March 13	Sacramento, CA	Guild Theater	Launch concert, benefit for Women's Empowerment
March 19	New York, NY	Lower East Side Girls Club	Launch concert with special guests Sophia Bacelar, Leah Crocetto, and Marika Takeuchi; hosted by Clemency Burton-Hill of WQXR
March 25	Oakland, CA	Yoshi's Jazz Club	With Judy Collins
April 7	Atlanta, GA	Breman Museum	NPR From the Top guest host appearance, CD signing
April 16	Cleveland, OH	Ideastream	Live in-studio performance
April 18	Akron, OH	Tuesday Musical Club	
May 24-25	Boston, MA	Boston Pops Orchestra	With Rhiannon Giddens

REFLECTIONS ON *HOLES IN THE SKY* FROM LARA DOWNES

EXCERPT FROM ALBUM BOOKLET, COMPLETE TEXT AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

“Sometimes interviewers ask me about being a woman in music - where I find inspiration, and where I face challenges. And my answer, always, is that I’m guided and inspired by the women before me – the ones who were ahead of their time in the courage of their creativity, who paved the way for me to take my own musical journey ...

A few years ago, this quote from Georgia O’Keeffe got stuck in my head and my heart: “I want real things - live people to take hold of - to see - and talk to - music that makes holes in the sky - I want to love as hard as I can.”

Music that makes holes in the sky ...

The world of women has always been my home. But the world of my music, of my piano teachers and the Great Pianists and Great Composers, with their stern, bearded portraits, their hundreds of sonatas and etudes that took up the hours of my days – that was a world of men and I felt not quite at home.

I went looking for the women ... I discovered the women who lived in the margins and footnotes of my music history books. They were so few, in comparison ... To rise up from the weight of petticoats and ladylike behavior, tyrannical fathers, overshadowing husbands, unchecked offspring – they were heroic, these women. They were giants ...

When I make music with other women, I feel a kinship, a common history that brought us here. We have freedoms beyond any of our ancestors – even the mothers who raised us. We have very little, in the scope of things, to hold us down. But still, I think, we feel the weight of the past. Still we rise ...

It feels like such a privilege to pay tribute to the women who preceded us, the pioneers ahead of their time. The ones who dared to want real things, to reach into the sky. Their courage is the ground we walk on. And it feels like a celebration of our own freedom - hard won, still gaining - to make beauty in the world, to take risks and move out ahead of our own time, with the courage that is our legacy - the courage to reach for real things, to dream as big as we can, and to share this music that makes holes in the sky."

ABOUT LARA DOWNES

Lara Downes is among the foremost American pianists of her generation, an iconoclast dedicated to expanding the resonance and relevance of live music for diverse audiences. A trailblazer on and off-stage, she follows a musical roadmap that seeks inspiration from the legacies of history, family, and collective memory.

Downes' playing has been called "ravishing" by Fanfare Magazine, "luscious, moody and dreamy" by The New York Times, and "addicting" by The Huffington Post. As a chart-topping recording artist, a powerfully charismatic performer, a curator and taste-maker, Downes is recognized as a cultural visionary on the national arts scene.

Lara's forays into the broad landscape of American music have created a series of acclaimed recordings, including *America Again*, selected by NPR as one of "10 Albums that Saved 2016", and hailed as "a balm for a country riven by disunion" by the Boston Globe. Her recent Sony Classical debut release *For Lenny* debuted in the Billboard Top 20 and was awarded the 2017 Classical Recording Foundation Award.

Downes enjoys creative collaborations with a range of leading artists, including folk icon Judy Collins, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, baritone Thomas Hampson, former U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove, and multi-instrumentalist/composer/singer Rhiannon Giddens. Her close partnerships with prominent composers span genres and generations, with premieres and commissions coming from Jennifer Higdon, John Corigliano, Stephen Schwartz, Paola Prestini, Sarah Kirkland Snider, and many others. Downes' fierce commitment to arts advocacy, mentorship and education sees her working in support of non-profit organizations including the Time In Children's Arts Initiative, PLAN International, the Sphinx Organization, Women's Empowerment, the Lower Eastside Girls Club, Washington Performing Arts, and NPR's From The Top, where she will appear as a featured guest host in Spring 2019.

Ms. Downes is represented worldwide by Cadenza Artists and is a member of the Yamaha Artist Roster.

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#laradownes #holesinthesky #becauseiamagirl #joypowerpossibility #constellationofwomen

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"DREAM VARIATION" VIDEO – [WATCH HERE](#)

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