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## For Immediate Release

February 23, 2017

### **PACIFIC COAST JAZZ/ BLUE HOUSE RECORDINGS**

**TO RELEASE "ANYBODY'S SPRING"**

**BY SAN FRANCISCO JAZZ VOCALIST SHERRI ROBERTS,**

**CD to be released MARCH 24, 2017**

**THE CD, ROBERTS' 5th,  
IS A JAZZ TRIBUTE TO SPRINGTIME  
FEATURING A BI-COASTAL RHYTHM SECTION**

**ROBERTS TO APPEAR AT CD RELEASE SHOWS:**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 AT BLUE NOTE, NAPA &**

**FRIDAY, MAY 12 AT THE SOUND ROOM, OAKLAND**

*Anybody's Spring*, vocalist Sherri Roberts' newest recording, is a celebration of everyone's favorite season. For over two decades, Sherri has performed a tribute to spring during that most verdant time of year, featuring an intriguing set list of tunes that swings from the jazz compositions of Clifford Brown and Tadd Dameron to the standard and not-so standard fare of Rodgers and Hammerstein, Hoagy Carmichael and Blossom Dearie favorite- Bob Haymes.

Now twelve of those tunes find themselves on Sherri's 5th album as a leader and her third for Pacific Coast Jazz/ Blue House Recordings. Following 2013's duo outing, *Lovely Days*, with the brilliant but little documented Bliss Rodriguez on piano, Sherri returns to the winning format of her first three recordings: all highly regarded small group sessions, produced and arranged by bassist Harvie S. With S back in the fold, this time more as collaborator than leader, *Anybody's Spring* boasts a stellar bi-coastal rhythm section alongside him: David Udolf on piano, Akira Tana on drums, and Sheryl Bailey on guitar. Their democratically conceived arrangements groove hard and weave freely around Sherri - lifting her sensuous voice in an embrace of interactive improvisation. Like the season of spring itself, Sherri is indeed "a breath of fresh air...pure and unaffected," (Kirk Silsbee, *Los Angeles City Beat*.)

What distinguishes *Anybody's Spring* from Sherri's previous efforts is its narrative drama and cohesion: "I want people to go through a journey of emotions, some of which are euphoric and others of which are devastating—to feel the full scope of what this season does to us at every level." In light of this, Sherri leaves no facet of spring untouched: its loves (**They Say It's Spring, While We're Young**), lamentations (**Now At Last, One Morning In May**), and loveliness (**Joy Spring, Double Rainbow**) are fair game for her verbal play. Through it all, she emerges like the warm soul that she is, fortifying listeners against the whip of any lingering winter winds.

Whether drawing near to classics like **Lady Bird** and **It Might As Well Be Spring** or the more obscure fare of **After All It's Spring** (from the same songwriting duo that brought us "I'll Be Home for Christmas"), a heartfelt effervescence shines through. And in ballads like **Spring Isn't Everything**, Sherri shows us that true love always starts with yourself.

Sherri Roberts' knack for uncovering the roiling emotional undercurrent of a lyric probably stems from her theatrical background. Born in Greenville, South Carolina and raised in Atlanta, Roberts spent her teenage years as an aspiring actor. She earned a B.A. in theater from Antioch College in Ohio, while at the same time exploring her newfound fascination with jazz.

Relocating to the Bay Area in the early 1980s, Roberts pursued her love of theater, but gradually discovered that she could find more immediate creative release in jazz, investigating characters and an entire narrative arc in the course of a song. Turning her attention to the bandstand, she started sitting in at open mic sessions, learning tunes and honing her skills as a storyteller.

She recorded two acclaimed albums for Brownstone Records, *Twilight World* (1996) and *Dreamsville* (1998), with *The Sky Could Send You* (2006) and *Lovely Days* following on PCJ. About the former CD, Christopher Loudon wrote in JazzTimes: "Stylistically, Roberts bears a significant resemblance to gin 'n' satin seductress Julie London. But where London's voice was distant as a winter moon, Roberts' is all dappled sunshine. . . shimmering delicacy. . . Enchanting."

The career credits of Sherri's bandmates on *Anybody's Spring* read like a "Who's Who" in jazz. New York resident **Harvie S** is a bassist, producer, composer and educator who can be heard on over 400 CDs as a sideman and 16 as a leader. He has played with the likes of Stan Getz, Dexter Gordon, Chet Baker, Pat Matheny, James Moody, Toots Thielemans, Kenny Barron, Tony Bennett, and Michael Brecker. His duo project with jazz master Sheila Jordan (1981-1995) set the timeless standard in bass and voice performance. They recorded 7 CDs together.

Pianist **David Udolf** is one of the most sought after sidemen in the Bay Area. He serves as vocalist Mary Stallings' West Coast musical director and has joined her at international festivals and concert venues in Switzerland, Prague, Israel, South Africa and the esteemed Monterey Jazz Festival. In addition to playing with other top Bay Area talent such as Kenny Washington, Noel

Jewkes, Dave Bendigkeit, and Jules Broussard, David has shared the concert stage with trombonist Steve Turre, R&B legend Bo Diddley, and saxophonists Ernie Watts and Herb Geller.

**Akira Tana** was born in San Jose, California. He received degrees in East Asian Studies from Harvard University in 1974 and percussion from the New England Conservatory in 1979. In New York, he established himself as one of today's most sought-after drummers, playing with Sonny Rollins, Sonny Stitt, Zoot Sims, Hubert Laws, Art Farmer, Rufus Reid, Lena Horne and the Manhattan Transfer - to name just a few. He has appeared on over 100 recordings as a leader or sideman. He relocated to the Bay Area after 20 years in New York and continues to be active locally and on the international jazz scene.

Called "a sizzling guitar goddess" by *All About Jazz*, guitarist/composer **Sheryl Bailey**, also a New York resident, has toured worldwide with her organ trio, her quartet (featuring Jim Ridl), and The Electric Ladyland Project (featuring Vic Juris). A partial list of others with whom she has performed and recorded includes George Garzone, Lea Delaria, Jack Wilkins, Howard Alden, Ingrid Jensen, and Ken Peplowski. In 2015, together with bassist Harvie S, Sheryl formed *Plucky Strum*, an all acoustic guitar and bass duo that explores the joy of creative improvisation. Their self-titled debut release is on the Whaling City Sound label.

On ***Anybody's Spring***, singer and musicians meld like a masterfully blended perfume, starting with a citrusy opening and moving through floral accords to a muskier base. It's one you'll want to apply to the pulse points of your musical appreciation all year round.

***Anybody's Spring*** is scheduled to blossom just after the vernal equinox on March 24, 2017.

**Sherri Roberts** will perform CD release shows at **Blue Note Napa**, 1030 Main Street, **Wednesday, May 10**, 7:00 & 9:30 pm, and at the **The Sound Room**, 2147 Broadway, Oakland, **May 12** at 8:00pm.  
[www.sherri-roberts.com](http://www.sherri-roberts.com)

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