



MOTÉMA MUSIC & HEARTCORE RECORDS LOVINGLY PRESENT

GERI ALLEN KURT ROSENWINKEL

A LOVESOME THING

LIVE AT PHILHARMONIE DE PARIS

*An historic 2012 Duo Concert Out November 24 on CD & Digital
(180g vinyl release date to be announced soon)*



Motéma Music, in harmonious collaboration with **Kurt Rosenwinkel's Heartcore Records**, unveils a musical treasure that has been hidden in the vaults of **Cite de La Musique** in Paris since 2012. The delicate masterwork "**A Lovesome Thing**" allows the magical synergy between the late and legendary pianist **Geri Allen** and the innovative and in-demand guitarist Kurt Rosenwinkel, heard together for the first time on record. For friends and fans of Geri Allen, who were heartbroken by her death in 2017, this release offers a blessed opportunity to hear her voice (both musically and literally) once again and to experience a magical evening of music that was especially important to her.

In July 2012, Kurt Rosenwinkel invited Geri to sit in on his date at the Jazz Standard club in New York City. The simpatico was strong. "Geri was so impressed with the flow and the freedom of the music she experienced during that one night that she wanted me to arrange another performance with Kurt," explains **Ora Harris**, Geri's long-time manager. "Kurt's manager at the time, and I put our heads together and were able to book a duo date

for Geri and Kurt to perform later that year at the **Jazz à la Villette** festival in Paris.” The concert took place on Sept 5th, 2012 before a packed and hugely appreciative audience at the famed **Philharmonie de Paris**, a stunningly beautiful hall with world-renowned acoustics.

In a mesmerizing display of improvised musical telepathy, they wove a harmonious tapestry, enthraling their listeners with layers upon layers of mystically elegant and expansive expressions. The tones of the guitar and piano merged and re-emerged in a dense and majestic field where musical ideas budded, blossomed, turn to seed, and sprouted anew as the artists thoroughly re-imagined Strayhorn, Gershwin, and Monk, and each revealed two delightful and never-before-recorded originals. As their instruments became extensions of their beings, notes flew between them as if an unseen hand was directing this intimate conversation between these two masters.

“There was a strong bond between Geri and myself: a beautiful internal smile, a deep respect.” Rosenwinkel relates. “I am so grateful we had the opportunity to work together. We talked through the years about projects we wanted to do, songs we wanted to play, but alas, we only had the chance to play a few times. This concert was the first and only time we played duo together. There was no rehearsal.”

“Geri spoke often to me of her desire to record with Kurt again,” says Motéma founder and director **Jana Herzen**. “And it was an idea I was keen to pursue.” Sadly, Geri succumbed to complications related to cancer in 2017 at just 60 years old, and the studio date was never realized.

Allen’s death shocked the jazz community. Messages of respect and love poured in from the far corners of the jazz world evidencing Allen’s quiet, yet totally pervasive influence on contemporary jazz. “Geri Allen has always been a shining example of creativity, openness, courage, and selflessness. I have always marveled at her talent as an innovator,” states **Herbie Hancock**.

Posthumously, Geri was inducted into the **Downbeat Hall of Fame** in 2022. Writer **Allen Morrison** noted in the accompanying article: “Allen long ago secured her reputation as a piano powerhouse with dazzling technique, a post-bop composer who, while steeped in jazz tradition, was also a restless, profoundly creative experimentalist. One of the more eclectic pianists in jazz history, she blurred distinctions between jazz and what has come to be

called creative or serious music (with a poverty of expression). She could groove, or not; swing, or not; play any style, from classical to bop to free and atonal. Her original investigations of rhythm

In his album notes, Rosenwinkel comments that “Geri was a powerful force: a master musician and a true magician. I felt a connection with her – the level of interaction with the subtle planes, the inner lives of spirit and contact with the universe. We felt it in the music, something magical happening, and I believe you can hear it in this recording.”

Terri Lyne Carrington, one of Allen’s closest collaborators said; “Geri Allen and Kurt Rosenwinkel are beautifully compatible. Their sound and musicality are a perfect fit on this gem recording. So happy it is finally being shared with the world! I always felt that Geri’s chordal motion was very guitar-oriented, so the simpatico between them is no surprise.”

Motéma’s founder and president, Jana Herzen, who oversaw the release of four prior acclaimed Allen albums, worked in loving detail with Rosenwinkel as well as with illustrator **Jenya Hitz**, mastering engineer **Alan Sliverman**, and Motéma’s long-time graphic artist **Rebecca Meek** to create the Lovesome package. For those who revere the legacy of Geri Allen, admire the virtuosity of Kurt Rosenwinkel, or simply appreciate the enchanting allure of piano and guitar jazz, this album serves as a portal to an ephemeral moment when music transcended the mundane and reached the sublime.



Happily, Rosenwinkel will be joining Motéma in Paris as part of a three-night celebration of the label's 20th Anniversary releases to take place at the Sunset/Sunside Club in Paris on November 2–4. Rosenwinkel will close out the celebration with music from **A Lovesome Thing** performed with pianist **Gerald Clayton** who previously worked under Allen's wing in her 'Errol Garner, Concert by the Sea' project.

CD/DIGITAL: A Lovesome Thing / Embraceable You / Simple #2 / Ruby My Dear / Open-Handed Reach

**KURT ROSENWINKEL will perform music from A LOVESOME THING
with pianist GERALD CLAYTON
on Nov 4@ Sunset Club, 60, RUE DES LOMBARDS - PARIS 1ST,
FRANCE
[Tickets on sale at Sunset-Sunside.com](https://www.sunset-sunside.com)**

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Label & Artist Inquiries

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A Motéma 20th Anniversary Release

GERI ALLEN was born and raised in the vibrant musical hub of Detroit, Geri Allen emerged as a trailblazing pianist and educator, leaving an indelible mark on the world of jazz. Her musical odyssey began at the tender age of 7 under the mentorship of trumpeter Marcus Belgrave. Fueled by passion and talent, she graduated from Howard University in 1979, her horizons broadened by a rich tapestry of musical influences.

In 1982, Allen's journey took her to the University of Pittsburgh, where she delved into the intricate realms of Ethnomusicology under the guidance of Nathan Davis. This period became a transformative phase, shaping her into not just a gifted musician but also a dedicated educator.

At the University of Pittsburgh, Allen's innovative spirit found fertile ground. She became the first woman and youngest individual ever to be honored with the prestigious Danish Jazzpar Prize. Her collaborations with iconic figures like Ornette Coleman and her critically acclaimed solo work, especially the notable "Flying Towards the Sound," showcased her improvisational brilliance. While at UPITT, Allen's commitment to community outreach and bridging educational inequities manifested through collaborations with artists and institutions nationwide. By virtually connecting to universities and cultural institutions across the country and collaborating with artists such as Terri Lyne Carrington, Esperanza Spalding, George Lewis, Jason Moran, Vijay Iyer, and McCoy Tyner plus her long outstanding working band: Kenny Davis, Kassa Overall, and Maurice Chestnut. Allen seamlessly merged the worlds of jazz and academia, fostering a new wave of talent.

Throughout her remarkable 35+ year career, Allen's piano keys resonated, recorded, performed and collaborated with some of the most important artists of our time including Ornette Coleman, Ravi Coltrane, George Shirley, Dewey Redman, Dave Holland, Jack DeJohnette, Jimmy Cobb, Sandra Turner-Barnes, Charles Lloyd, Marcus Belgrave, Betty Carter, Jason Moran, Lizz Wright, Marian McPartland, Roy Brooks, Charlie Haden, Paul Motian, Laurie Anderson, Hal Willner, Ron Carter, Tony Williams, Dianne Reeves, Joe Lovano, Dr. Billy Taylor, Carrie Mae Weems, Angélique Kidjo, S. Epatha Merkerson, Mary Wilson and The Supremes, Howard University's Afro-Blue and many others. Her legacy, defined by innovation and artistry, continues to inspire budding musicians, a testament to her enduring influence on the world of jazz.

On June 17, 2017, Geri Allen passed, leaving behind not just a legacy of extraordinary music but also a legacy of passion, dedication, and boundless creativity that will echo through the corridors of jazz history for generations to come. Hailed as one of the most accomplished pianists and educators of her time, Allen contributed some of the most groundbreaking and forward-thinking music of the time. The remarkable pianist leaves behind a wealth of

material that will educate future generations of musicians and was aptly inducted into the [Downbeat Magazines Hall of Fame in 2022](#).

Find out more about Geri Allen on her website: <https://geriallen.com>

KURT ROSENWINKEL has been a distinct and prominent creative voice at the forefront of modern music for more than three decades. The American multi-instrumentalist, composer, and producer has gained international recognition for his deft artistry and unabated individualism since he first appeared on the New York music scene in 1991. His legacy as the preeminent jazz guitar voice of his generation is plainly evident on his fifteen albums as a leader, each one the inspiration for legions of musicians young and old across the globe.

In addition to his genre-defining work as a bandleader, Rosenwinkel is also an accomplished sideman, with over 150 credits to his name. His first exposure to international touring was with Gary Burton, the legendary vibraphonist who hired him out of Berklee College in 1992. That same year he joined Paul Motian's Electric Bebop Band, and entered into a decade-long musical relationship with the drummer that helped usher in a new era in Motian's already illustrious career.

These collaborative relationships, along with tours as Joe Henderson's guitarist in 1997 established Rosenwinkel early in his career as a player who had the blessing of giants of the jazz world. His work with Brian Blade Fellowship, Mark Turner, Joshua Redman, Seamus Blake, Donald Fagen, and hosts of other jazz luminaries further cemented his star power.

Rosenwinkel's success has also extended far beyond the world of jazz. He has been a member of the Crossroads Guitar Festival family since 2013, when he was personally invited by blues and rock legend Eric Clapton to perform and share the stage with him. The iconic guitarist who called Rosenwinkel "a genius" also featured on Rosenwinkel's *Caipi* (2017), playing on the song "Little Dream". Rosenwinkel's collaboration with Q-Tip on *The Renaissance* (2008) and *Kamaal the Abstract* (2009) showed that

Rosenwinkel's playing had breadth that extended comfortably into hip-hop that has led to performances on Late Night with Jimmy Fallon with The Roots, and a collaboration with internet sensations DOMi and JD BECK.

In the winter of 2016, Rosenwinkel formed the independent music label Heartcore Records with the focused intention of signing and promoting a new generation of musicians whose exacting standards and creative passions equal his own. Over the last few years, Heartcore has released a series of online masterclasses taught by Rosenwinkel that leads viewers through deep theoretical, compositional, and technical explorations of musical topics with humor and approachability. Heartcore Records has also allowed Rosenwinkel to flourish in another dimension of his ever-evolving musical practice as a record producer of other artists, while still consistently putting out his own music that blazes new pathways in the annals of modern jazz. Kurt was awarded A German Jazz Prize in 2023.

Find more info at Kurt Rosenwinkel's websites: <https://kurtrosenwinkel.com>, www.heartcorerecords.com