



Sensuous Whisper

Johanna Saint-Pierre

After her successful, *The NYC Summer Sessions EP*, that came out last year, JSP is back with her latest soul and pop EP *Sensuous Whisper* also produced by Brian Bacchus (Norah Jones, Gregory Porter). This is the second franco-american collaboration between Paris and NYC. The musical style: from soul through r&b, funk, gospel and even jazz baladry. Johanna is a sensual woman in a world of her own. Let her bring her sensuous whisper to your own ears as the next moon rises.

Sensuous Whisper is Johanna Saint-Pierre's second EP and is produced by acclaimed Grammy winning producer **Brian Bacchus**, who produced Gregory Porter's *Liquid Spirit* & *Be Good* albums and also signed and arranged Norah Jones' debut recording, *Come Away With Me*, which went on to win 8 Grammy Awards and hit the charts worldwide.

Released last year on the independent American label **Lilhouse Music**, Johanna's first EP *The NYC Summer Sessions* was also produced by Bacchus and demonstrated her electro pop influences while providing hints of neo-soul nuance.

Johanna Saint-Pierre and Brian Bacchus decided to follow-up their **unique Franco-American collaboration** with a soul & pop stylized second EP. This time the producer wanted to switch it up and explore a more organic production, recording live drums, bass, guitar and even piano in NYC.

This new EP, *Sensuous Whisper* was recorded between Paris and the Lower East Side (LES) of NYC. Nothing was left to chance and the

producer ensured that Johanna's musical personality was given the most funky and soulful backing! He surrounded himself with some of the same team of American musicians and sound engineers who collaborated on her first EP. They again recruited the sensitive French keyboardist, composer and arranger **Rémi Amblard** (Christelle Adams, Smadj) to flush out her new songs in both English and French. Rémi and Johanna worked first in Paris putting together a bunch of material. They then presented Bacchus with a group of songs to pick from.

Bacchus was particularly careful and picked 4 original songs that Rémi skillfully arranged. The producer then suggested two never-before covered Stevie Wonder songs that particularly suited Ms. Saint-Pierre's voice. He then gave them the songs, *Sensuous Whisper* (from *Conversation Peace*) and *Flower Power* (from *The Secret Life of Plants* soundtrack) to learn and lay down the basic tracks for.

Johanna and Rémi then travelled to New York to have bassist and drummer, **Louis Cato** (Snarky Puppy, Bobby McFerrin, Jonathan

Batiste's Stay Human, Marcus Miller) lay his soulful bottom and groove, as well as guitarist **Sherrod Barnes** (Whitney Houston, Roberta Flack, Ayo) add his tight rhythm parts and tasty jazzy and bluesy licks. Both also added background vocals here and there, Louis in duet on the touching gospel song, *Come To My World* and Sherrod doubling on the choruses in *Sensuous Whisper*. Besides various keys on all the tracks, Rémi Amblard gave a masterly and deeply felt performance on grand piano for the melancholic and bewitching Sondheim-like ballad *You are Missing*, showcasing his jazz leanings. The light and funky *Crush On You* is sung in French and reminds us of Serge Gainsbourg. *Take Me away* takes us into Nina Simone and Screamin' Jay Hawkins' *I Put A Spell On You* territory. Johanna's voice on *Sensuous Whisper* brings to mind an amalgam of American singers, the likes of Jill Scott, Eryka Badu and Michael Franks. *Flower Power*, a song ahead of its time, brings to mind our current concerns about climate change, reminding us that plants are part of a delicate ecosystem and that we are their stewards.

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EP *Sensuous Whisper*: Format cd & digital released on bandcamp June 1, 2020
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Next coming Live Shows in 2020:

Facebook Live thursday june 25, 6.30pm
Théâtre de Longjumeau : October 11

Tracklist

1. *Take Me Away* 4.05
2. *Crush On You* 3.58
3. *Flower Power* 4.24
4. *Come To My World* 4.07
5. *Sensuous Whisper* 4.23
6. *You Are Missing* 3.49

