

LOVE ME OR LEAVE ME

A TRIBUTE TO NINA SIMONE

Love Me or Leave Me is a musical exploration with interwoven heartfelt stories of the life, loves and passions of the legendary NINA SIMONE. Artistic Director, Narrator and Vocalist, Christine Manetta tells Nina Simone's story through anecdote and monologue accompanied by a stellar collection of Melbourne's most seasoned musicians, they pay homage to Nina.



Focusing on the Jazz and Blues Elements of Simone's work, originating from Traditional African American Folk Music, which Nina gave her own musical colour too and reimagining the genre of Tribal Jazz that has been inspired by Nina's works. Christine's own distinctive style is passionately driven towards political, activist art, as she beautifully portrays Nina Simone's songs giving them a spin of her own. Filled with sultry tones, a deep voice, she exposes the human spirit.

A musical journey from Tribal Gospel Beginnings and Cabaret Jazz to Activist Anthems and 60's Flower Power Hippie Songs. Including songs such as I Put a Spell on You, Feelin Good, Sinnerman, See-Line Woman, Ain't Got No-I Got Life and My Baby Just Cares for Me.

In 2014 the project of Love Me or Leave Me - A Tribute to Nina Simone became a reality and since has been creating social, racial and cultural awareness. Winning acclaim, with a successful tour, throughout Regional Victoria/New South Wales and Melbourne's Cabaret Scene, including the Albury Entertainment Centre, Bendigo Engine Room, Port Fairy Theatre, Castlemaine Jazz Festival and Halls Gap Jazz & Blues Festival.

"I had the pleasure recently to see Christine Manetta's tribute show to Nina Simone. The band was swinging from the start. The song selection was excellent and with the story of Nina being told as the show moves along really adds to the atmosphere. Christine's vocals complement the songs and you can hear she has a deep respect for Nina and the songs chosen. This is a fabulous show and I highly recommend you check it out.

"Barry Maxwell - 99.3 3NRG FM, President Hume Blues Club/International Blues Challenge Judge



"A soulful experience"
Musical Director
Castlemaine Jazz Festival

"Great voice"
Brian Kemp - Radio KLFM

"Christine Manetta presents a soulful and tirelessly skilful performance that marries stunning soul music with a breathtaking context of story, time and place."

Roy Maloy -
Impresario Speakeasy HQ

Nina Simone – The High Priestess of Soul – One Of The Most Extraordinary Artists Of The Twentieth Century

Nina Simone's unique blend of jazz, classical music and blues won her an audience, earning her cult status and critical acclaim. Nina used her remarkable talent to create a legacy of liberation and empowerment through a magnificent body of works, recording 50 Albums and 500 songs throughout a career spanning over fifty years.

Nina Simone was not interested in Glitz and Glamour but was a Gusty and Resilient Diva. Acknowledging Nina's racial struggles but also seeing more how she performed for the freedom of female voices which went beyond race and for the Justice of Social, Political and Economic Struggles. She empowered all people oppressed through her example; an inspiration to many even today.

Her message in many of her works *"FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN"*.

"Nina's legacy – a very tragic and intense life, but also fierce and ballsy. She had a great time being a performer. That's what we need to take from Nina" – Christine Manetta

Christine Manetta has been involved in the music industry for many years. Starting her career performing in Melbourne's Live Music Scene, as a singer and performer; she has travelled a musical journey through a multitude of genres including Urban Theatre, Jazz, Blues, Pop, Rock and Soul.

A regular guest on community and mainstream Radio on stations such as ABC, Southern FM, 3CR, Radio KLFM and 2AY, including curated Guest Spots on ABC Radio (Hobart) for Nina Simone tribute programs. Along the way attracting Media attention through the Herald Sun and 3AW, about her own musical journey and her Tribute to Nina Simone quoting:

"Nina's drive and attitude of striving to be what she wanted to be and to be the best at it, was what connected me to her, she became my driving force and my greatest influence" – Christine Manetta

WEBSITE www.christinemanetta.com



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZdaMix7unk>

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