



As Grady Harp writes on Amazon Music: “Not only does **Gwen Hughes** have an exceptional voice by anybody’s standards, but she surpasses that magnificent gift with the manner in which she makes her terrific songs communicate.” Gwen has produced music with a diverse set of artists, from **John Driskell Hopkins** (The Zac Brown Band) to **Khari Cabral Simmons** (India.Arie) to **Kabir Sehgal** (multiple Grammy winner, most recently in 2025 for the Dalai Lama’s “Meditations.”)

“I love to write songs,” says Gwen, “but my favorite challenge is taking a song everyone knows one way and presenting it another way, deconstructing and rebuilding it.” Her newest releases, the *Jazz Hymn* projects, showcase this desire to reinvent classic church hymns in the jazz framework. The hymns become bossa novas, “This is My Father’s World” (*In the Garden: Jazz Hymns for Easter*); uptempo swing, “Now Thank We All Our God” (*We Gather Together: Jazz Hymns for Thanksgiving*) and even a surprising vocal-upright bass duet on “Doxology” (also *Thanksgiving*).

The final installment of the *Jazz Hymns* collection, *The First Noel: Jazz Hymns for Christmas*, features the classic Thad Jones composition, “A Child Is Born,” recorded in Nashville with **The War and Treaty’s** guitarist, **Max Brown**.

“We made a film about the “why hymns?,” because they aren’t the first thing that comes to mind for a jazz project,” smiles Gwen. Her show, **JAZZ OF THE SOUL**, folds a few hymns into a broader set list highlighting the “joyful” side of jazz, soul and gospel music. As she says, “No preaching. Just music to make you feel good.”

Gwen Hughes has toured 15 countries all over the world, from Paris to Nairobi. The former Ambassador to Slovenia, **Joseph Mussomeli**, proclaims: “As a performer and a person, Gwen is a delight, and the music that pours from her band is stirring and refreshing.” The US State Department sponsored two tours of the band through Eastern Europe.

As an actor, Gwen can be seen in Donald Glover’s “Atlanta,” as well as appearances that include “Hightown” (Netflix), “Tulsa King” (Paramount+), and “The Final Broadcast” (Amazon Prime), numerous Tyler Perry and independent projects.

Gwen was cast in the Alliance Theatre production of **Stephen King** and **John Mellencamp’s** *Ghost Brothers of Darkland County*, with music production by **T-Bone Burnette**. The show subsequently toured nationally for 2 years.

Offstage, Gwen was a 10-year Board Governor with The Recording Academy, a Johnny Mercer “Artist in Residence” with the GA Music Hall of Fame and instructor for The Otis Redding teaching students of all ages in the US, Morocco, Kenya, Slovenia, and France.

More info: www.gwenhughes.com

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