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HOUSTON'S "JAZZ DARLING" KRISTINE MILLS BRINGS HER SHOW TO AUSTIN FOR JUNE 12 ALBUM LAUNCH EVENT

Mills to introduce her latest project entitled "bossanovafied" live in Austin with an official album launch party at Copa Bar and Grill on June 12, 2009

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(dateline – Austin, April 2009; source: Juice Consulting LLC) - 2008 Houston Press Music Awards "Best Jazz" nominee, vocalist **Kristine Mills** will release her third album and her very first consisting entirely of original music – **bossanovafied** – this May. The engaging performer who has steadily carved a reputation as Houston's "Jazz Darling," will bring her signature vocals to Austin. Kristine and her "Austin Band" will perform selections from **bossanovafied** along with a menagerie of songs from bossa nova/samba classics to fresh takes on jazz and blues among her own infamous surprises.

In celebration of this highly anticipated release, she will grace the intimate stage of **Copa Bar and Grill**, located at **217 Congress Avenue** on **Friday, June 12, 2009** for an official Austin release party at **8:00 p.m.** Admission will be 8 USD, and the party is open to the public. Upstairs in the Buzios Room that evening, Austin jazz fans will have the opportunity to intently absorb the talent that Houston Press Night & Day Editor Olivia Flores Alvarez has called "spine-tingling." Among her frequent rave reviews, she has expressed much appreciation for Mills: "You haven't heard jazz music, until you hear Kristine Mills. She puts a new spin on standards and makes old classics new again. Mills has it all - range, style, technique and, most importantly, heart."

Near and dear to her heart, the creation of **bossanovafied** has been an intense, personal journey for Mills. She coined the album "a collection of songs about life experiences only understood and resolved through melody and lyrics." She has come full circle in many aspects largely due to the release of the deep emotions tied to these experiences. And somewhere along the way of this journey, synchronicity reunited her with one of her first musical soul mates, bassist Michael Stevens. The pair fortuitously crossed paths after 20 years while performing separately at the 2004 Wimberley Jazz Festival. During the rush of exiting the stage, Mills literally bumped into Stevens and his bass while making his way up to perform. Igniting a new flame from the 1985 spark which originated during their days in music theory class at the University of Texas Austin Butler School of Music, the elated friends set plans in stone to reconnect.

Mills credits Stevens with being her tutor and musical conscience during their undergraduate years. He gave her a gift that changed her own life path when he introduced her to Brazilian artists such as Milton Nascimento, Gilberto Gil, and Jaco Pastorius to name only a few. Upon reconnecting, it was not long before Mills invited him to play on **inspiracao**, the last track of **bossanovafied**. Symbolically, there would be no tune more appropriate to rejoin these two creative forces as the song is a self-declared ode to the idea of inspiration that has helped her to shape her life and music – an idea that Stevens decidedly helped cultivate. The roaring flare of passion for their music has prompted them to form **the mills minho trio** - a group founded on the premise of exploring the musical truth and the backstory in all genres of music. They have also committed to work together in several additional group configurations.

With Stevens magical touch on top of the contributions of the rhythm masters Mills has intrinsically summoned along the way, **bossanovafied**, as the listener will hear it is fundamentally the culmination of Paulo Midosi's and

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Haroldo Cazes' arrangements, along with the work of the other "old school" bossa nova musicians. Midosi not only arranges, but the classic bossa nova pianist who played on the album. History was made when Mills met Midosi in Rio the summer of 2006 where they agreed to meet again in Rio that winter to record what Mills refers to as the first evolution of **bossanovafied**.

The collective energy of all these prodigious talents brought out the true heart and soul of Kristine's melodies and harmonies while preserving the authentic bossa nova essence of the music. She describes the atmosphere as "dynamic" and recalls pure synergy of each musician, sharing ideas and improving the songs measure by measure. Infused with this spirit of Brasil, along with the rhythm of bossa nova and samba, Mills deeply feels this album embodies those indigenous sounds, which have always fascinated, mesmerized and inspired her.

Two insightful poets - David Schneider and Brian Spack – had a remarkable impact on Mills' inspiration for this album. They are the co-creators of the lyrics of several songs whose lyrics were not written entirely by Mills. She has boundless gratitude for the dramatic influence these gentlemen had not only on this album, but also on her views about life. Mills insists that their lives intersected at just the right time. Their words so succinctly expressed how she felt about current events in her life at a time when she was incapable of addressing them for herself. This gave her great relief and presented the perfect conditions for magic to flow freely during the album's creation.

Sentiments found in the lyrics of each song on **bossanovafied** address the ebb and flow of relationships, life and love, and will surely resonate universally with those who hear them. The accompanying melodies she wrote for the self-penned song lyrics and also those derived from her friends' poems, invite her listeners to project themselves into the stories of these songs and apply them to their own experiences.

About Kristine Mills:

In May of 2007 Kristine released her first CD, *Kristine Mills MUSIC*. The year's success only heightened when Kristine's irresistible essence earned her recognition as Hottest Female Jazz Vocalist on Houston Modern Luxury's Lust List and assumed her the position of featured musician in "The Loop Music" Houston Modern Luxury Magazine, July 2007. Also in 2007 she recorded her second CD, *Kristine Mills Playing with the Big Boys LIVE* followed by two performances with the Duke Ellington Orchestra in the Brazilian International Jazz Fest. 2008 brought her a nomination for Houston Press Music Awards "Best Jazz" category.

Kristine, a "born-to-perform singer" has been impressing audiences with her varied repertoire, vocal prowess and command of various languages for decades. This native Houstonian launched her professional jazz vocalist career in 1991 at Ovations to a record turnout of friends, family and jazz fans. Kristine moved to New Orleans in 1993 with the declaration that she needed to "...learn to sing the blues with authority!" There she performed at world-renowned jazz club, Snug Harbor as a regular performer and other iconic jazz clubs in the city. After a year in New Orleans, Kristine ventured off to Florida and continued to grace the stages throughout the US, Brazil and Europe, specifically as guest vocalist with the Duke Ellington Orchestra. She and the Duke Ellington Orchestra performed in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brazil for the Brazilian International Jazz Festival in August 2007. Upon returning to the states, the bond she formed with leading pianist, composer, arranger and music director Tommy "TJ" James led to performances together for two dates in late March 2008, along with Barry Lee Hall, Jr., trumpeter, conductor and also arranger for the Duke Ellington Orchestra. Additionally, Kristine went to Chicago to perform with select members of the Duke Ellington Orchestra to perform for the jubilee celebration of the Mies van der Rohe society in Crown Hall at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

For more information on Mills, please see www.kristinemillsmusic.com

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