

# RENEE YOXON & RENE GELY

## ABOUT YOXON & GELY

This duo takes jazz down to its bare bones. Elegant, gentle, emotional vocals interwoven with fluid, tasteful guitar with just the right touch of flash.

Young vocalist **Renée Yoxon** is a central figure in Ottawa's jazz scene thanks to her grace, captivating presence and beautiful voice. In only a few short years, Renée has firmly established herself as a musician dedicated to the art of jazz singing. In 2005, while pursuing her bachelor's degree in physics, Renée began her jazz studies with acclaimed Toronto jazz vocalist Tena Palmer. In 2009, Renée was awarded her BSc in physics, with minors in math and music. In 2010 she participated in the National Arts Centre's Manhattan on the Rideau masterclasses led by Theo Bleckmann and Peter Eldridge. This year, Renée received an Astral Emerging Artist Award from the National Arts Centre and Astral Radio which helped to fund a summer in New York studying with John McNeil, Janet Lawson, Peter Eldridge, and Karen Nimereala.

**René Gely** has pursued his musical passions in San Francisco, Toronto, Los Angeles, and Paris. A Parisian for 12 years, he studied with the French world music guitarist Pierre Bensusan and the acclaimed American expatriate, soprano saxophonist Steve Lacy. Rene has recorded with Toronto jazz musicians such as Perry White and George Koller, as well as with the Irish singer Mary Reidy. While in San Francisco in 2003, René started his world beat trio Pulse Mondiale. He later relocated to the Ottawa area where he is originally from. Here he has formed a new edition of Pulse Mondiale, as well as new collaborations with the city's best musicians.

Recently, Yoxon & Gely have released their first collaborative work, *Let's Call it a Day*, a minimal and intimate, jazz-inspired guitar/voice duo

## OFFICIAL PRESSKIT



featuring the sweet yet strong vocal stylings and compositions of emerging artist Renée Yoxon with the stark and beautiful arrangements of veteran guitarist René Gely.

As Yoxon's debut album, this work showcases her clear and unembellished lyrical delivery, poignant song choice, and emotionally charged performance. Using a wide variety of guitars, Yoxon & Gely create atmospheric, folk-influenced interpretations of jazz standards.

Recently, Yoxon & Gely have been garnering notice at the national level with several of their tracks receiving airplay on such radio shows as CBC Radio 2's TONIC with Katie Malloch, Planète Jazz's Les Lève-Tards with Annie B, and Dinner Jazz on Jazz.FM91.

## OTTAWA JAZZ SCENE

“The music series opener **attracted a capacity crowd, with 80 tickets sold** ... The audience gave Yoxon and Gely a standing ovation after the two one-hour sets, and demanded a repeat of the opening number, “The Look of Love”, as an encore.”

## THE ART OF THE TORCH SINGER

“It’s an assured and auspicious debut. Accompanied only by veteran virtuoso René Gely on a selection of guitars – his steel string, in particular, rings with marvellously crisp authority – and occasional piano, **Yoxon has reinvented a selection of standards with a refreshing boldness**. Not in a revolutionary way, but mainly by re-establishing the lyric as the focus of attention, stripping it away from the overblown tendencies of so many younger interpreters at the moment. Yoxon’s voice is something to treasure.”

## GIRL SINGERS

“The collection **approaches perfection** on a couple of levels. Ms. Yoxon’s voice is fragile but not wispy, young but not naive. The pairing with Mr. Gely is inspired. His approach to these tunes matches hers in its simplicity, his execution is flawless, and the result is magical. “

## THIS IS BOOK’S MUSIC

“Let’s Call It A Day (self-released) is a bare bone release where it’s just Yoxon and instrumental accompaniment, sometimes with just Gely on guitar or piano, or through multi-track recording a mixture of both. **It may bring to mind visions of a smoky piano bar at 2am**, but the cover of Yoxon sitting on a bed as if she had just awoken gives a slight hint as to what you may hear. It’s music to welcome the day, and thus you can call this album her Day.”

## PLANETE JAZZ

“Une jeune chanteuse, Renée Yoxon, un guitariste d’expérience, René Gely, c’est tout ce qu’il fallait pour nous emmener dans cet univers tout en douceur. Sur Let’s call it a day vous retrouverez une sélection de standards comme The Look of Love, Willow Weep For Me ou Centerpiece. On y tâte même le français avec Par ce beau jour de printemps, mais toujours chantées de façon originale en explorant différents arrangements subtils, pour laisser résonner la voix cristalline, un peu soul, dans nos cœurs. **Directement au cœur.**”

## THE CHARLATAN

“With her rapidly growing reputation as **one of the most talented young jazz singers** in the Ottawa area, it is no surprise that she has collaborated with Ottawa guitarist René Gely on her debut album, Let’s Call It a Day.”

# CONTACT & LINKS

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## DOWNLOADS

### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS.

- mic\*
- mic stand\*
- music stand
- low chair with no arms
- high chair with no arms\*
- XLR cable for mic\*
- 1/4" cable to run from guitar amp
- PA, soundboard
- 2 monitors

\* can be provided by artists

### STAGE PLOT:



[Click to download technical rider and stage plot](#)



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Release Date: October 1st, 2010  
Format: CD  
Label: Self-released  
Catalog Number: RRY 001  
File Under: Jazz

### Let's Call it a Day

Renée Yoxon (voice), René Gely (nylon string guitar, steel string guitar, acoustic baritone guitar, electric guitar, piano)

- 01 The Look of Love (4:11) Bacharach, David
- 02 Willow Weep for Me (4:40) Ronell
- 03 Never Let Me Go (3:45) Evans, Livingston
- 04 Let's Call it a Day (3:04) Klassen, Yoxon
- 05 Candy (2:58) David, Whitney, Kramer
- 06 Lovers' Lullaby (3:29) Yoxon
- 07 Centerpiece (3:54) Edison
- 08 The Masquerade is Over (4:00) Magidson, Wrubel
- 09 Par Ce Beau Jour De Printemps (3:09)  
Hammerstein, Rodgers
- 10 Don't Explain (5:17) Herzog, Holiday
- 11 One For My Baby (and One More For The Road) (3:52) Arlen, Mercer

Total Running Time: 42:20