

Long Bio:

Nancy Erickson Lamont, a seasoned jazz vocalist, has been leaving her mark on Seattle's music scene for over three decades. Her impressive vocal range, lush alto, and distinctive approach to the jazz tradition have captivated audiences and earned her a reputation as one of the city's most engaging and natural vocalists. On May 10, 2024, Nancy unveiled her fourth studio album, *Through the Passages*, produced by the acclaimed Grammy-nominated vocalist and producer Johnaye Kendrick.

Featuring an array of jazz talent, including lauded pianist-composer-bandleader Josh Nelson (Natalie Cole, Sara Gazarek), pianist Shawn Schlogel, bassists Chris Symer and Michael Glynn (Cory Weeds, Dave Grusin), and drummer Stefan Schatz (Jon Hendricks, The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra), *Through the Passages* is a stirring, contemplative collection of original songs exploring life's miraculous and mysterious seasons. Nancy's first record of originals, written in collaboration with Schlogel and pianist Darin Clendenin, *Through the Passages* draws its lyrics from poems Nancy has written over the last 10 years.

Raised in Salem, OR, Nancy studied at Edmonds Community College under famed jazz vocal instructor Frank DeMiero and graced the stage with talents such as Ernestine Anderson, Mark Murphy, and The Four Freshmen before taking a break to raise her children. In 2009, she re-emerged with renewed dedication to her music, going on to win the prestigious Seattle Kobe Female Jazz Vocalist Competition in 2012. The last decade also brought transformative events to Nancy's personal life, including a divorce, navigating a pandemic, and the discovery of new love with her husband, Dan, whom she married in 2021. These experiences served as a catalyst to connect more deeply with her audience by sharing her life's observations through her music.

Through the Passages is propelled forward by Nancy's nimble vocal stylings, and her wistful depictions of new love, motherhood, aging, and the state of the world. For instance, "Auf Wiedersehen, Goodnight," intertwines a melody she composed decades ago while lulling her baby girl to sleep when she had a fever with recent lyrics written for her ailing mother, while "Home," paints a sweet portrait of the safe, soulful relationship the singer shares with her new husband, and "Tick Tock" deciphers her internal chaos during the pandemic era. Then, some songs explore the bittersweet lives of others, like "The Lighthouse," inspired by the chilling true story of two keepers' descent into madness, and the melancholic "Passages", composed by Darin Clendenin in memory of a dearly departed friend.

As each vignette sails life's ebbing currents, Nancy's artistry and heartfelt storytelling invites listeners to lean into *Through the Passages'* rich, disarming sonic world.