

Melissa Ellis

Electronic Press Kit



Melissa Ellis is an award winning musician and a 2020 quarterfinalist at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN where she shared the stage with over 100 rising solo/duo blues acts from all over the world. She possesses a voice and style that is unmatched by any other. A vocal power that packs a serious punch, add in her opulent tone and texture reminiscent of jazz's golden age, her distinctive growl of the blues, and soulful delivery, she has concocted an unforgettable signature blend of blues, jazz, and blue-eyed soul. Her spicy southern drawl is only the cherry on top. Many have referred to her as a cross between 2 classic queens, Etta James and Ella Fitzgerald, with a dash of modern talent's, Brandi Carlile, Norah Jones, and Sarah Bareilles. Delivering high-energy vocal performances, concertgoers are left breathless and wanting more!

Beginning her professional career as a singer/actress/dancer in theater at the age of 16, she performed in regional tours before moving on to study classical and jazz music at Tennessee Technological University as a vocalist while pursuing a singing career in Nashville.

In 2009, Melissa released her debut album *Melissa Benjamin*, lending her seasoned talent to the world of bluegrass & gospel. Her original single, "Crossville," was adopted by her hometown as the official city song. While touring, she found new inspiration and started writing more original songs. With new songs came a new sound that evolved into a more soulful genre.

Melissa's sophomore album, *Just Me*, was released in 2011 and as a multi-instrumentalist, the album showcased her musicianship on guitar and piano, as well as more of her original material.

Melissa's latest musical journey brings out the raw emotional sounds of blues & her training in jazz. Her repertoire includes her original songs mixed with re-imaginings of familiar classics that are presented in fresh new ways. Melissa has landed opportunities that have placed her at the Ryman Auditorium, stages throughout the southeast region of the U.S., in Europe, on radio, on television, and at high profile festivals, including Nashville's acclaimed

CMAfest where her soulful style was showcased among the sea of rising country twang.



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www.MelissaEllisMusic.com

Southern Spitfire Entertainment

What Others Are Saying...



“Melissa is a top notch artist. Her soulful vocals are not to disappoint!” -James Crowley (Studio Owner/Musician).

“Melissa Ellis has long been a staple of our concert music series here at the Cumberland County Playhouse. Her smooth sound and comic wit keep our audiences laughing and entertained. It is always our pleasure whenever we are able to get her on to one of our stages.”
-Sam Hahn (Concert Producer, Cumberland County Playhouse)

“Bistro 29, and I, love Melissa! Book her now. You won't regret it!” -Wayne Peacock (owner and manager, Bistro 29)

“...Awesome voice; very entertaining. Recommend to everyone.” -Jo Cassidy (Facebook fan)

[Click Here For Live Video Performances](#)

Melissa is available as a...

Solo Act – You get Melissa Ellis playing keys and singing for guests. Her voice will fill the room. She can engage the crowd or be the perfect background addition to your elegant or casual atmosphere.

Duo Act – Melissa Ellis brings her tasteful and volume-conscious drummer to help set the rhythmic tone for the event giving crowds a beat to tap their toes to or get up and dance. Drummer can use an acoustic kit or electric kit, depending on the needs and sound limitations of the venue.

Melissa & The Fellas– Melissa Ellis brings along “The Fellas” to perform, backed by guitar, bass, and drums—trio, to four piece band—to fit almost any budget. Music takes them from soulful rhythms and soaring guitar solos to soft melodies showcasing Melissa's incredible voice.

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Set List Sample...

With nearly a thousand songs to her repertoire, and along with her original music, Melissa will perform familiar and re-imagined songs and classics from such artists as...

- ❖ Nina Simone
- ❖ Beth Hart
- ❖ Melody Gardot
- ❖ Norah Jones
- ❖ Van Morrison
- ❖ Michael Buble
- ❖ Elvis Presley
- ❖ John Legend
- ❖ Billy Joel
- ❖ Sarah Bareilles
- ❖ The Hollies
- ❖ Louis Armstrong
- ❖ Janis Joplin
- ❖ Etta James
- ❖ Brandi Carlile
- ❖ Elton John
- ❖ Patsy Cline
- ❖ Aretha Franklin
- ❖ Otis Redding
- ❖ Billie Holiday
- ❖ Dusty Springfield
- ❖ Al Green
- ❖ Carly Simon
- ❖ Big Maybelle
- ❖ Ella Fitzgerald
- ❖ Edith Piaf
- ❖ Michael Jackson
- ❖ Sam Cooke
- ❖ Frank Sinatra
- ❖ And many others...

Notable Career Venues and Festivals

- ❖ The 12 Bar (Memphis, TN)
- ❖ 1885 Grill (Chattanooga, TN)
- ❖ Alley Taps (Nashville, TN)
- ❖ Autour de Midi (Paris, Fr)
- ❖ Le Baiser Sale (Paris, Fr)
- ❖ Balcony Music Club (New Orleans, LA)
- ❖ Bistro 29 (Murphy, NC)
- ❖ Bluebird Cafe (Nashville, TN)
- ❖ Bull and Thistle Pub (Gainesboro, TN)
- ❖ Red Silo Brewing Company (Cookeville, TN)
- ❖ Bourbon Street Grill (Dahlongega, GA)
- ❖ Calaboose Cellars (Andrews, NC)
- ❖ The Casual Pint (Farragut, Bearden, and Fountain City TN)
- ❖ Chestnut Hill Winery (Crossville, TN)
- ❖ Childress Vineyards (Lexington, NC)
- ❖ CMA Fest (Nashville, TN)
- ❖ Cumberland County Playhouse (Crossville, TN)
- ❖ Dauphin Street Blues Company (Mobile, AL)
- ❖ Domaine de Graux (Tornai, Be)
- ❖ Fainting Goat Vineyards (Jasper, GA)
- ❖ The Goat (Murfreesboro & Mt. Juliet TN)
- ❖ Grinderhouse Coffee (Crossville, TN)
- ❖ International Blues Challenge quarterfinalist (Beale Street, Memphis, TN)
- ❖ Jerry Lee Lewis Cafe (Memphis, TN)
- ❖ Lake Tansi Summer Concert Series (Lake Tansi, TN)
- ❖ Open Chord (Knoxville, TN)
- ❖ The Palace Theater (Crossville, TN)
- ❖ Red Silo Brewing Company (Cookeville, TN)
- ❖ The Rex Hotel Jazz & Blues Bar (Toronto, ON)
- ❖ Ryman Auditorium (Nashville, TN)
- ❖ Smoky Mountain Blues Society regional winner solo/duo (Knoxville, TN)
- ❖ Spike's Sports Grille (Crossville, TN)
- ❖ Wine on the Plateau (Fairfield Glade, TN)

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Social Media

Facebook

Bandsintown

Twitter

Instagram

Youtube



Booking Information

Melissa Ellis

www.melissaellismusic.com

mel@melissaellismusic.com

615.605.8019

Management Information:

Matt Clyde | Press and Artist Relations

Southern Spitfire Entertainment

SouthernSpitfireEntertainment@outlook.com

615-869-9456



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