

the ache of possibility

Music that stirs the soul!

“Long ago and far away, I called Simon & Garfunkel “God’s duo” against some pretty stiff competition ... These days, I’d add to that list Louis Rosen and Capathia Jenkins who travel along a constantly extending musical road

have taken them (and me and a host of their growing cadre of fans) from Southside Chicago to the racy love poems of Nikki Giovanni. They make music that stirs the soul.”

The Huffington Post
Jeremy Gerard

Capathia Jenkins will knock you flat!

“The performers are as good company as you could wish for. Rosen (as) songwriter and musician, charts an irresistible landscape between pop music and art song.

Jenkins, a Broadway veteran, is his perfect muse and foil, bringing her exuberance and voluptuous mezzo to even Rosen’s most melancholy ruminations. She’ll knock you flat.”

The Bloomberg News



“BRILLIANT”

New York Magazine: The Approval Matrix
(*New York Magazine’s “...deliberately oversimplified guide to who falls where on our taste hierarchies.”*)

“Capathia Jenkins’s voice — sweet, smart, sassy and full of soul — warmed the hearts of everyone in the audience. She has an uncanny ear for the droll irony and naked emotion of Rosen’s work and a vocal range that brings out every shift in tone.”

The Chicago Tribune

HOT ... COOL ... IRRESISTIBLE AND SMART!

the ache of possibility

Electric

“Their songs brim over with intelligence and passion, full of musical adventurousness. Capathia performs with such integrity, always serving the song and her warm and soulful voice conveys so much humanity. It seems she can sing anything — and with great control and presence. Her voice is undeniably pretty and graceful, but it also has a strength and gustiness. It becomes liquid in the warm and fuzzy romantic contentment odes. But she can also be commanding as in *The Ache of Possibility*, which is an indictment of the world gone wrong. As a songwriter, Louis Rosen has a lot to say and finds interesting language choices with crisp images and his melodies are not predictable or manipulative. Capathia and Louis ... their combination is electric.

Sound Advice Songwriters and Singers with Distinct Voices



“Their songs work in a relaxed acoustic jazz vein with folk and Off Broadway overtones. They convey a Manhattan-style sophistication embodied in Rosen’s literate, image-rich lyrics and Jenkins’ nuanced delivery.”

iTUNES Review

Sophisticated and subtle

“There’s a fantastic time to be had with the sweet combination of Capathia Jenkins and Louis Rosen now playing at the Iridium Jazz Club. She’s a blow-em-away Broadway musical star who turns out to be a sophisticated and subtle musical artist. He’s a well-regarded songwriter with a charming understated stage style. If Rosen is laid back, Jenkins is center stage. She deserves to be. She has great range, both in terms of music and expression. It’s fun when she belts but she’s a fine jazz interpreter.”

**CITY WEEK, NY
MUSIC PICK**

earthy, tuneful, notable songs

“Rosen’s earthy, tuneful songs are notable ... a continually shifting musical patchwork of blues, folk, jazz and pop.”

The New York Times

“Rosen’s words and music fit together beautifully, and, as sung by Capathia Jenkins, the songs become a celebration of every facet of life. Rosen uses a wide range of musical styles to emphasize the many emotions in Giovanni’s words. Bassa nova, folk and a dash of soul all fit well with the sharply intelligent lyrics. As powerful a dramatist as she is a singer, Jenkins conveys each number’s emotion with great care, giving equal attention to the lyrics and the music. Her voice flows easily from gentle to fierce as needed for each song, once again proving her status as a composer’s best friend.

Cabaret Scenes

“THRILLING...

a true treat for adults
looking for meaningful pop music.”

**THE EDGE
New York**

“Rosen’s songs make you think about Angelou’s poems anew. And Jenkin’s interpretations — lustrous, wordily wise, yet always with a hint of vulnerability — were winning.”

**Chicago Sun
Hedy Weiss**



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Capathia Jenkins and Louis Rosen

in concert

The Ache of Possibility

hot, cool, irresistible and smart!

Rosen's earthy, tuneful songs are notable ... a continually shifting musical patchwork of blues, folk, jazz and pop."
The New York Times

Capathia Jenkins' voice — sweet, smart, sassy and full of soul—warmed the hearts of everyone in the audience.
The Chicago Tribune

LOUIS ROSEN is a handsome skinny white guy originally from Chicago's Southside; **CAPATHIA JENKINS** is a voluptuous, ravishing African American woman from Brooklyn who "grew up in Church". She is also an in-demand jazz/pop vocalist, an award winning actress and a Broadway musical veteran. He is also a multi-award winning songwriter, guitarist, and performer, a Guggenheim fellow and noted theatre composer. Together they are an alchemical mix of two extraordinary artists who have come from very different places to make great music.

Live in concert with Louis on guitar and their state-of-the-art New York back up, they are pushing the musical envelope to the sheer delight of audiences. Rosen's original songs mix and merge traditional and contemporary jazz and blues, American roots and classic pop, with text-rich lyrics. Jenkins, a singer with a radiant voice, can soar, belt or melt to an intimacy of nuance and mood that goes right to the emotional core of any song.

Jenkins and Rosen have named their concert *One Ounce of Truth*, the title of their second album (One Ounce of Truth: The Nikki Giovanni Songs) in acknowledgment of Nikki Giovanni who has been their collaborator, inspiration and friend.

The concert features songs based on the poetry of iconic African American writers Nikki Giovanni, Langston Hughes and Maya Angelou. "There's a terrific use of imagery in these writers, but their poems masterfully utilize the natural rhythms of our American speech," says Rosen. "They all grew up listening to jazz, gospel and blues, and the sounds and rhythms of that music is in their poetry.

The songs trace out life's journey insisting on the values of love and friendship, art and memory, the raising of children, and ultimately the acceptance of letting go of it all. "The Moon Shines Down" and "I Wrote A Good Omelet" come at love from different points of view. "You Were Gone," in dark blues-soaked soul bemoans love lost even as Capathia's performance suggests that she'll live through it. "All I Gotta Do" is fierce stuff of sleepless nights shot

through with sexual tension. “The Black Loom” is dazzling, a whirling conjure song about artistry and creating art on the loom inspired by the black experience. It’s a show stopper.

*take a note and spin it around spin it around don't prick your finger
take a note and spin it around
on the Black loom on the Black loom
careful baby
don't prick your finger*

from “**The Black Loom**” (*Genie in the Jar: for Nina Simone*) by Nikki Giovanni © 1996

Jenkins and Rosen evoke a cooler heat in their jazzy, blues-rich renditions of Langston Hughes’ poems. Whether it’s the exuberant “Harlem Night Song,” the tender “Lullaby For a Black Mother,” the ironically joyous “Life is Fine” or the heartbreaking “Song For Billie Holiday,” Jenkins and Rosen both honor Hughes and break new ground in songs that reveal what Hughes found in Harlem’s soul.

*Do not speak of sorrow
With dust in her hair,
Or bits of dust in eyes
A chance wind blows there.
The sorrow that I speak of
Is dusted with despair.*

from “**Song for Billie Holiday**” by Langston Hughes © 1949

Capathia’s interpretation of Angelou’s poems, a sassy collection of women who have life experience and edge, is lustrous and worldly wise. The bluesy acknowledgment of a woman being two-timed and the funny, sly menace of a woman putting the rival for her boyfriend’s attention on notice are balanced by “Phenomenal Woman,” a song with the sound and strut of total self confidence. Capathia and Angelou then slam on the breaks in “Alone,” a jazz-blues powerhouse of a song that makes no bones that life is hard.

*Lying, thinking
Last night
How to find my soul a home
Where water is not thirsty
And bread loaf is not stone
I came up with one thing
And I don't believe I'm wrong
That nobody,
But nobody
Can make it out here alone.*

from “**Alone**” by Maya Angelou © 1975

“One Ounce of Truth” is a mix of musical styles and moods. Sexy, smart love songs alternate with catchy contemporary pop standards profiling the hope and angst now at play in the American psyche.

Jenkins is in gorgeous voice, jamming with a running bass line as she sings about hope in the post-W era. The timing couldn't be better; Rosen may be a dreamer but he has his feet on the ground intellectually. The song is not a paean to an untested young President but, rather, a knife-edged psalm.

*Yes I know, The ache of possibility is now
One again we plant a seed and speed the plow / Shed our
sorrow / Stake a claim for the soul of tomorrow /
The soul of tomorrow / The soul of tomorrow.
from "The Ache of Possibility"*

© 2008 music and lyrics by Louis Rosen, Lullwater Music, ASCAP

In "The Middle Class (Use To Be) Blues", Louis sings a song pitch perfect to the time, a wonderful comic gripe with a whiff of '30s honky tonk.)

*My rent's not paid / And my pay's been docked /
And what my doctor told me / Well, it left me kind of
shocked / He said, I read about your condition
in the news? You've got those 'Used To Be In The Middle-Class Blues"
from "The Middle-Class (Used To Be)Blues"*

© 2008 music and lyrics by Louis Rosen, Lullwater Music, ASCAP

Love of Song is a bossa-nova inflected toe-tapper that speaks not only to the ache of possibility between lovers, but to the power of songs itself.

*I sing / for you / I sing / for me / I sing/ for love /
Love of song / Love of song*

*There are songs that will move you / And song that
you move to / And prayer songs / And moon songs /
Love songs / Birth songs / We fill the earth with songs
from "Love of Song"*

© music & lyric by Louis Rosen, Lullwater Music, ASCAP

Capathia Jenkins and Louis Rosen create and perform a concert that is hot, cool, irresistible and smart. It doesn't get much better.



Capathia Jenkins

B I O G R A P H Y

In addition to her work with Louis Rosen, **CAPATHIA JENKINS'** concert work includes recent appearances with the Cleveland Orchestra, Utah Symphony Orchestra, Minneapolis Orchestra, Wolf Trap, Michael Feinstein at Carnegie Hall, Alaska Symphony and the 92nd Street Y's *Lyrics and Lyricists* series. On Broadway she has thrilled audiences and press alike with her show-stopping performances in *Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me*, the Tony-nominated musical *Caroline, or Change*; Frank Wildhorn's *The Civil War*; and Bacharach and David's *The Look of Love*. Along with Kristine Chenoweth, Tyne Daley and Rhea Pearlman, she was in the original star cast in the Off-Broadway hit in *Love, Loss and What I Wore* directed by Norah Ephron. She received a Drama Desk nomination for the one-woman show, *(Mis)understanding Mammy: The Hattie McDaniel Story* and appeared in the revival of *Godspell*. National and European tours include *Broadway Rocks*, *Caroline, or Change*, *Dreamgirls* and *Bubblin' Brown Sugar*. She has also appeared in regional productions of *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *Children of Eden*, and on television in guest starring roles on "The Practice," "Law & Order," "Law & Order: SVU," "Third Watch" and "The Sopranos."

Louis Rosen

B I O G R A P H Y

LOUIS ROSEN was awarded a 2005-2006 Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship in Music Composition. His song suites for the team of Jenkins and Rosen include: *The Ache of Possibility* (Di-Tone Records), *One Ounce of Truth: The Nikki Giovanni Songs* (PS Classics, released May 2008); *South Side Stories* (music and lyrics; RoseCap Records, released 2006); *Twelve Songs on Poems by Maya Angelou*; and *Dream Suite: Songs in Jazz and Blues*, on words by Langston Hughes. He has also composed *It Is Still Dark: Songs of Exile* for the singer Darius De Haas, on words by Celso Gonzalez-Falla. Louis' theater compositions include two musical theater pieces: *Book of the Night*, (music & co-lyrics, Goodman Theatre, Chicago), and *A Child's Garden*, (music and co-libretto, Melting Pot Theatre, off-Broadway). He is currently collaborating with Tony Award winning director of Doug Hughes (*Doubt*) on the musical adaptation of John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*. He is also the author *The South Side: The Racial Transformation of an American Neighborhood*, part memoir, part oral narrative, published by Ivan R. Dee, Inc., Chicago, in hardcover and cloth. Other awards include the Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Musical Theater Award; an NEA New American Works grant; the Sloan Foundation's Grand Galileo Prize; a 2006 Puffin Foundation Award; a generous grant from the Anna Sosenko Trust; and numerous ASCAP awards.

P E R F O R M A N C E H I S T O R Y

The team of outstanding jazz/pop and Broadway vocalist Capathia Jenkins and award-winning songwriter/guitarist and arranger Louie Rosen released their second album, *One Ounce of Truth: The Nikki Giovanni Songs* (PS Classics) in May 2008 to wide and unanimous acclaim, including the all-important New York Times. Capathia, Louis and their septet launched the release with four concerts at The Public Theater's Joe's Pub, the success of which led to a three-concert engagement at the famed Iridium Jazz Club in New York City.

One Ounce of Truth is Rosen's thirteen-song mix of jazz, blues, soul, classic pop and American roots music, with words by the world-renowned American poet, Nikki Giovanni (who was most recently chosen as one of Oprah Winfrey's "25 Living Legends.") Rosen and Jenkins co-produced the recording with their long-standing collaborator Scott Lehrer of Second Story Sound.

Jenkins and Rosen launched their unique, ongoing collaboration in New York City in March 2005 at The Public Theatre's Joe's Pub with two sold-out evenings of new songs by Rosen written specifically for Ms. Jenkins, the highlights being the highly praised world-premieres of *Angelou Songs* and *Dream Suite: Songs in Jazz and Blues*, on words by Langston Hughes, the first two of five album-length song sets that Jenkins and Rosen have premiered over the past four years, all penned by Rosen specifically for their collaboration.

The team soon followed with the November 2006 release of their debut recording, *South Side Stories* (RoseCap), a twelve-song suite, with Louis writing both music and lyrics. *South Side Stories* had its world premiere at the Steppenwolf Theater's "Traffic" Festival of Music and Art, and its New York premiere at the Public Theater's Joe's Pub, and on both occasions received high and unanimous praise:

Capathia and Louis have made numerous nightclub and concert appearances over the course of their three years together, with highlights including three engagements at the legendary Manhattan nightclub, Birdland; Manhattan's Metropolitan Room; concert appearances at the Great Hall of Cooper Union and the 92nd Street Y; performances at the Brooklyn Library's Dweck Concert Hall (Grand Army Plaza), as well as Brooklyn's new music venue The Old Stone House; their Chicago concert debut at the renowned Steppenwolf Theater; their Washington, D.C. dual concert debut at the Sixth Street and I Historic Synagogue and Theater J; and most memorably, their two-concert African debut at the Harare International Festival of the Arts in Zimbabwe in May 2008.

Their third album, *The Ache of Possibility*, was released in November 2009 (Di-Tone Records). The release was launched with a four-show engagement at what has become the team's New York performing home, Joe's Pub, on Sunday, November 8, Saturday, November 14, and Saturday and Sunday, November 21 and 22. The twelve tracks include eight new songs with music and lyrics by Louis, and four songs with music by Louis and words by Nikki Giovanni. These are songs of love and politics and choices; songs that capture something of the mood and spirit of the moment—*The Ache of Possibility*. In addition to the Joe's Pub, Capathia and Louis again performed live at The Great Hall at Cooper Union and the Dweck Concert Hall. In spring 2010 they will perform at the GE THEATER at Proctors in Schenectady, NY and at Northwestern University for a series of 3 concerts. Bookings are pending for Fall 2010.

For more information, including audio and video clips, CD purchase, and concert dates, please visit www.poetinmo.com, www.myspace.com/jenkinsrosen, and the Jenkins/Rosen page at www.capathiajenkins.com