

Contact: [shepley@shepleymetcalf.com](mailto:shepley@shepleymetcalf.com)

## Singer Shepley Metcalf Devotes Album to Final Songbook of Late Lyricist Fran Landesman

“Something Irresistible: Songs of Fran Landesman + Simon Wallace”  
features sly and sophisticated lyrics

Cambridge, MA; October 28, 2011: Shepley Metcalf’s “Something Irresistible: Songs of Fran Landesman + Simon Wallace” is the first-ever U.S. album devoted to Landesman’s last songs—a collection of wry musical musings on life that delight listeners with their “mordant wit and salty exuberance.” (New York Times)

Landesman’s 1950’s hits like “Spring Can Really Hang You Up the Most” and “Ballad of the Sad Young Men” have been preserved in classic recordings by Ella Fitzgerald, Gil Evans, and others. These earlier, well-known songs were written when she and her husband, Jay, ran the Crystal Palace nightclub in Saint Louis, Missouri, which gave rise to the likes of Woody Allen, Barbara Streisand, and the Smothers Brothers.

Her later years, living in London, brought a prolonged and prolific creative burst. Between 1995 and 2011 she wrote hundreds of songs with Brit composer and pianist Simon Wallace. The two were working on new songs on the day of her death, this past July 23, at age 83. Jay Landesman had died a few months earlier, in February.

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Metcalf, a Boston-based cabaret/jazz singer, is the first U.S. artist to record and perform the Landesman/Wallace songbook. She discovered and began performing their songs in 2009, drawn to their sophisticated lyrics and refreshing range of topics. She then ventured an email to Wallace, which resulted in their meeting at New York's Café Carlyle, where he was performing. There Wallace handed her the inaugural copy of the Landesman/Wallace songbook. Later that year Metcalf travelled to London to meet Landesman, and learned that the lyricist felt her finest work was the song "Scars." Meanwhile Metcalf and her musical director, pianist Ron Roy, were working on song selections for an album. "Something Irresistible" was released in March 2010.

Songs from the album have received airplay on radio shows nationwide and on BBC Radio 2. Metcalf's companion show of Landesman songs has been performed five times at the Metropolitan Room (NYC), and at Davenport's (Chicago), the Rrazz Room (San Francisco), Scullers Jazz Club (Boston), and at the Provincetown Cabaret Fest (Cape Cod, MA). In 2012 the show will travel to St. Louis.

More information, including reviews, show dates, and clips can be found at  
[www.shepleymetcalf.com](http://www.shepleymetcalf.com)

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## **Something Irresistible: Songs of Fran Landesman + Simon Wallace**

Shepley Metcalf: vocals

Ron Roy: arrangements\* and piano

Chris Rathbun: acoustic bass

Gene Roma: drums

I'm Not Taking Any Chances (2:14)

Hyde Side Blues (3:34)

In A New York Minute (2:46)

Did We Have Any Fun (2:03)

Damned If I Do (2:13)

What Love Knows (3:47)

Down (2:32)

Scars (2:29)

Feet Do Your Stuff (2:07)

It's Cool to be Cool (2:18)

The Secret of Silence (1:49)

When Your Computer Crashes (2:27)

How Was It For You (3:49)

Save The Photographs (3:07)

One Good Scandal (2:26)

*Released March 2010*

\*with the exception of "Scars" by Simon Wallace

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