



## **Christine Tobin - Biog**

**Irish-born vocalist and composer Christine Tobin is based in the UK and spends her time between London and the beautiful Kent coast. Her style, although rooted in jazz, is eclectic and draws on a broad range of influences from Ireland to West Africa to Brazil (Oumou Sangare, Elis Regina etc). Her sound is rich, authentic and deeply expressive and was described by the Guardian as “Tobin’s 24 carat voice” while praising her both for the poetry of her compositions and her golden voice. Much of her repertoire is self-penned and Tobin has received many accolades for her skills as a writer and arranger. In 2012 she won a British Composer Award for 'Sailing to Byzantium', her settings of poems by W.B. Yeats and in August 2013 her interpretive powers were brought to the fore when she won a 'Herald Angel Award' at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for her show 'A Thousand Kisses Deep", her imaginative versions of Cohen classics. Also in 2013 she was shortlisted for two Parliamentary Jazz Awards, 'Musician of the Year and 'Album of the Year'. Romantic and radical, Christine is a musical free spirit who blurs the lines to create her own unique style that is streetwise and eclectic, earthy and ethereal. In 2008 she was named Best Vocalist at the BBC Jazz Awards and she won 'Jazz Vocalist of the Year' at the 2014 Parliamentary Jazz Awards.**

**Her versatility and musical integrity has ensured that she is a much in demand guest with other bands. She has performed and recorded with a list of diverse creative artists, including musicians Kenny Wheeler, Mike Gibbs, Julian Joseph, Nigel Kennedy, Django Bates, Mark Turner, Billy Childs, BBC Big Band, Peter Herbert, Carleen Anderson, Tim Garland, Cleveland Watkiss, Gary Husband, Billy Hart, actor Gabriel Byrne, film director Mike Figgis and Pulitzer Prize winning poet Paul Muldoon.**

**She recorded seven albums for Babel, one of the UK 's most dynamic and creative indie labels. In a 4 star \*\*\*\*review of her 2008 album “Secret Life Of A Girl” the Guardian wrote “Dublin-born singer Christine Tobin is a jewel of the London jazz scene, streets ahead of the pack... She should be on a global stage, rubbing shoulders with fellow troubadours like Cave, Mitchell and Cohen. [Her] eloquent songs are framed by masterful arrangements...There's no self-indulgence: it's all about the songs”. Jazzwise hail her as "probably the most adventurous jazz singer of her generation in this country, with the ideas and willingness to push back the boundaries and explore new territory with each new album." Since 2010 she has released three highly acclaimed, award winning albums for**

**Anne Rigg – Right Tempo**

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Trail Belle Records, 'Tapestry Unravelling', 'Sailing to Byzantium' and 'A Thousand Kisses Deep'.

Christine works regularly on the UK jazz scene, appearing at Ronnie Scott's, The Pizza Express Jazz Club Soho, Vortex, The Sage Gateshead and many reputed festivals including the London Jazz Festival, Brecon, Cheltenham and Hull Jazz Festivals. On the international scene she has appeared at some of the most renowned jazz festivals including Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival U.S., Princeton University US, Kongsberg, Shanghai, Varna, Kalisz, Berlin, Rainforest Music Festival Borneo, Sons di Hiver Paris, Molde, Baku, Syria, Haarlem, Frankfurt and Cork International Jazz Festival.

Club appearances on the international scene include A-Trane Berlin, a weeks residency at the Half Note, Athens and residencies at the Jamboree, Barcelona.

Her vivid interpretations of Bessie Smith were featured in film director Mike Figgis' Red, White and Blues docu/film in the Martin Scorsese Presents The Blues series. These films were commissioned by the PSB channel in the U. S. and screened at cinemas worldwide. Christine has also presented special features for BBC Radio 3's cutting edge programme Jazz On 3 and appeared regularly on Alyn Shipton's Jazz Library also for BBC Radio 3. She has contributed to programmes about Billie Holiday, Bessie Smith, Abbey Lincoln, Betty Carter, Joni Mitchell and Carmen McRae. In 2012 she presented the award winning documentary 'Out With Paganism and all that Jazz' for RTE Lyric FM.