

Susanne Alt

Royalty For Real (Venus Tunes, February 16th)

After years of performing over a hundred shows annually as both a saxophonist and DJ, Amsterdam based **Susanne Alt** found her schedule suddenly empty during the COVID-19 pandemic. This presented a perfect opportunity to revisit her first love: jazz. Dedicated to trumpet icon **Roy Hargrove** and featuring an all star lineup of the New York scene, *'Royalty For Real'* is set to release on **February 16th** on **Venus Tunes**.

Alt was first introduced to the music of Joshua Redman, Kenny Garrett, and Roy Hargrove at the age of 15, with the latter standing out as a **profound influence** on her musicality. Years later, Alt found herself running into Hargrove at late-night jam sessions after festival appearances in Germany, the Netherland and the US and the two played together frequently. Hargrove's

passing in 2018 came as a tremendous shock to Alt, and she felt moved to compose a series of pieces in **homage** to the trumpeter's **legacy**, and the **memories** they shared.

Bringing together **soul, blues, funk**, and nods to the **bop tradition**, *'Royalty for Real'* is an effortless, **modern**, and soulful exploration of **groove**, melody, and improvisation. Recorded at **EastSide Sound** in NYC, the warm, **organic** production presents the band in a **raw**, intimate fashion, giving the listener a front seat to the exchange of **energy** and **ideas** between the experienced quartet.

From the driving *'Bel Air Bop'* - an ode to those late-night North Sea Jazz Festival jams in The Hague's Bel Air Hotel,, the feel-good groove of *'Rue Lepic'* - a tribute to the Hargrove classic *'Strasbourg Saint-Denis'*, a delicate rendition of *'The Nearness of You'* - a ballad often heard in Hargrove's repertoire, to a reinterpretation of *'Roy Allan'* - a piece Hargrove wrote for his father, the record sees Alt offer up pieces of her **identity** as a composer and soloist to one of her greatest heroes.

Joining Alt are notable veterans of the American jazz scene: Bassist **Gerald Cannon** played in **Elvin Jones'** band for years and served as **McCoy Tyner's** musical director and drummer **Willie Jones III** has toured with the likes of **Milt Jackson** and **Arturo Sandoval** - the pair played together in Roy Hargrove's own band for seven years. Keys virtuoso **James Hurt** is known for his **versatility** and has collaborated with the likes of Abbey Lincoln, Sherman Irby, and Jacques Schwarz-Bart.

