



For Immediate Release:

Contact: Paulina Phillips 410-972-7325

AMOROSO PERFORMS AT CAFE MEZZANOTTE IN SEVERNA PARK, MARYLAND

Amoroso is an Italian musical term meaning amorous and the name of an engaging musical group formed in 2021 by guitarist/vocalist Richard Rausch and vocalist Elizabeth Melvin. Their eclectic repertoire of Brazilian flavored jazz stylings, sensuous R&B and laid-back rock grooves features unique arrangements enhanced by Rausch's brilliant guitar playing.

On Sunday, November 20 they'll perform at Cafe Mezzanotte offering a soulful blend of tunes by the likes of Stevie Wonder, Jobim, The Beatles and Neil Young. Melvin's singing in French, Portuguese and Spanish will add a touch of magic to their global program which is part in the monthly Jazz Beyond Borders series at the Severna Park restaurant. Begun three years ago, it was the only music series in Anne Arundel County to continue throughout the Pandemic, sometimes online, sometimes outdoors - whatever was needed to allow the show to go on!

Annie Award winning multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Elizabeth Melvin has performed in the Mid-Atlantic since 1977, contributing marimba, keyboards, percussion and vocals to jazz and world music bands Wooden Hands, Mama Jama, Jambulay, and the Caribbean Art Jazz Ensemble. Adventurous since the start of her career, she studied with Cuban musicians who arrived on the Mariel Boatlift, bringing a wealth of musical knowledge with them. In the 1980's, she played marimba in traditional West African music group Mamaya led by Senegalese kora master Djimo Kouyate. In 2008 she formed a vocal trio with the late singer/dancer Eileen Carson Schatz and bassist Mark Schatz. In 2014 she was a lead singer in vintage swing group The Late Boomers. She is founding director of The Freedom Choir, a world music community choir and a song leader for vocal workshops in the U.S and Canada.

Dick Rausch got his start in the late 60's as leader and guitarist for the renowned rock groups The Color and Second Eagle, based in Georgetown's premiere club The Bayou. He performed in the first U.S. version of Jesus Christ Superstar at St. Steven's Cathedral in NYC and was the U.S., European and Pan American touring music director and guitarist for legendary vocalist Carl Anderson (Judas) in the 70's. He has opened for such greats as Paco De Lucia, Marvin Gaye and Al Green. In the early 90's he returned to his first love, the classical nylon string guitar, and immersed himself in the bossa nova sounds that enchanted him as a youth. Collaborating with stellar musicians such as flute/sax player John Starr, violinist Lucas Lechowski and drummer Larry Griffin he formed the groups Gentle Birds and Jazacatu to perform a compelling mix of jazz and bossa. He brings his knowledge of jazz harmony and sensuous vocal tones to the music of Amoroso.

This show also features Brazilian brothers Leonardo and Bruno Lucini on bass and percussion. Having performed in every major concert hall and club in Washington, D.C., they helped create a huge audience for Brazilian instrumental music and jazz. Jim Orr on keys founded The Persuaders in 1988 and has performed with The Pan American Rhythm Project, The Samba Bossa Four, Root Boy Slim and many other ensembles.

Doors open at 4:00 p.m. for the 4:30 p.m. show and 6:30 p.m. for the 7:00 p.m. show. Admission is \$25. A sellout is likely, so reserve a seat soon if you plan to come from <https://www.instantseats.com> (select Cafe Mezzanotte as the venue). Find out about other events by getting on the mailing list for Jazz Beyond Borders: <https://www.jazzbeyondborders.com>.

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P. O. Box 172 Davidsonville, MD 21035 USA www.jazzbeyondborders.com