



# sydney wayser

**b i o :** New York-based singer-songwriter Sydney Wayser is back with her sophomore album *The Colorful* (2009), a more lighthearted follow-up to 2007's *The Silent Parade*. Where *The Silent Parade* leaned towards the dark and melancholic, *The Colorful* presents a collection of songs decorated with the playfulness of toy instruments while maintaining Wayser's sense of intimate and serene elegance. Praised by NPR for her "natural gift for melody and musicianship," *The Colorful* demonstrates a newfound maturity that showcases this gift clearly and delicately.

Half-French and half-American, Wayser grew up in LA but spent a few months every year in Paris. The Louvre and the Orangerie being only a few blocks from her apartment, she quickly gleaned much of French culture from her songwriter father, leading her to musical influences that include Edith Piaf, Charlotte Gainsbourg, and Jacques Brel, among many others. This European sensibility is evident on both *The Silent Parade* and *The Colorful*, each filled with tunes that could easily provide a soundtrack to a Godard film or a playful scene from Jeunet's *Amélie*.

"I wrote mostly everything on piano and children's toys," explains Wayser, while she was living in a tiny NY studio apartment and using a closet as an ersatz 'music room'. She then went into the studio with Blaze Mckenzie (producer) and Mike DiSanto (engineer) and "threw around a ton of ideas while we were locked in there," Wayser says. Their collaboration led to stand-out tracks such as "La Di Da," a song written with Woody Allen's Annie Hall in mind.

The last track on *The Colorful*, "Pomegranate," draws from Wayser's fascination with the Greek myth of Persephone and Hades. Wayser explains that she wrote this song in two parts: "The first part is from

Hades' point of view while Persephone is in the underworld, and then she transitions through the earth up towards the light as bells and tinker toys come in as well as ice cream trucks and children's laughter..." Indeed, *The Colorful*, as a whole, feels like a sonic representation of this transition through the earth up towards the light. With an unwavering sense of charm and wit, melody and phrasing, Wayser's latest offering is an irresistible invitation to follow her into the light; an invitation not to be denied.

## press :

"... an immediately poignant voice of natural charm, of that smokiness that draws us to Chan Marshall." - Daytrotter

"The Colorful...finds a broader canvas for her expressive vocals and sophisticated songcraft." - Bob Moses, Smoke Music

"Whatever your mood, the live show will enrapture you..." - IndieBall.com

"Think Tori Amos or Fiona Apple with fewer dramatic flourishes." - NPR Music

"With a voice like Cat Power fused with the spirit of Regina Spektor, what is there not to love about Sydney Wayser and her latest LP *The Colorful*? - Beyond Race Magazine

## select touring history :

2009

The Living Room (recorded for XM satellite radio), NYC

Café 939 (Berklee College of Music), Boston

WERS Boston Live In-Studio Performance

Wanderlust Festival; Lake Tahoe, NV

The Makeout Room, San Francisco, CA

The Mercury Lounge, NYC

Currently playing on a major market US East Coast Tour

Largo Los Angeles residency (Dec 2009)

Paris showcase (January 2010)

Les Femmes S'en Mêlent Festival (France, spring 2010)

2008

(Appearance on Fearless Music, Paste Magazine select artist, OurStage presented artist, SXSW & Newport Folk Festival):

The Hotel Café, LA

Great Scott w/ Gemma Hayes, Boston

Fairfield Theatre w/ Loudon Wainwright III, CT

Union Hall w/ Jonah Smith, NYC

Bowery Ballroom w/ Jeremy Enigk & Damien Jurado, NYC

The 8 x 10 w/ Kaki King, Baltimore

WXPN Presents:The World Cafe Live w/ Kaki King, Philadelphia

The Bowery Ballroom w/ Kaki King, NYC

Stubb's - SXSW w/ Kaki King & Moby, Austin

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