

**RENÉ MARIE SIGNS WITH MOTÉMA MUSIC**  
**Deal calls for double release in 2011**

**(February 21, 2011, New York, NY): René Marie**, the award-winning singer whose signature style incorporates elements of jazz, soul, blues and gospel, has signed an exclusive recording deal to release a pair of albums with the acclaimed jazz/world/soul label **Motéma Music**. The first album, titled *Voice of My Beautiful Country* and releasing on March 8, 2011, is an ambitious celebration of Americana which glorifies the cultural diversity of the United States through Marie's beautiful and emotionally charged interpretations of nationally loved anthems, from Motown and Tin Pan Alley classics to "America the Beautiful." The second album, *Black Lace Freudian Slip*, which will hit the streets in October 2011, is an all original set that embodies the much-loved singer's most personal recording and writing statements to date.

"With *Voice of My Beautiful Country* I set out to embrace the many varied voices of this country," Marie explains, "A person might think, 'What do a Jimmy Van Heusen song, a Temptations song, a Jefferson Airplane song and 'John Henry' all have in common?' To me, each song reflects a different facet of American life."

While *Voice of My Beautiful Country* expresses Marie's radical, intelligent and musically lush patriotism through familiar songs, *Black Lace Freudian Slip* moves in for an extreme close up to reveal Marie's depth, humor, and intelligence through a set of deeply personal, self penned songs. The CD features several new compositions, as well as some of her signature songs from previous recordings, reworked here for an even more powerful impact.

It's the rare jazz vocalist that focuses on writing original lyrics and music. Commenting on the genesis of *Black Lace Freudian Slip*, Marie notes, "The idea for a set of my own material might never have come about at all, had it not been for a Mid-western club owner I met in 2003. When I performed original material in his club, he angrily objected. 'True jazz vocalists', he insisted, 'are supposed to interpret other people's songs, not write songs of their own.' At first, I was upset by the incident and wondered if perhaps he was right, but later I wrote my feelings out in an angry, but funny number called 'This One's for Joe,' which wound up being wonderfully received at my live shows and made me realize that including original songs in my repertoire was, in fact, something that I really needed to do."

Says Motéma Founder and President, Jana Herzen, " I am overjoyed to have an artist with the depth of spirit and incredible insight that Rene possesses join our roster. Motema, which means 'heart' in the Central African language, Lingala, exists to promote courageous musical visionaries with extraordinary talent, who have something original to say and who understand the true essence of music. No one fits that bill better than Rene Marie."

Together these discs provide clear evidence why Rene Marie has steadily amassed a deeply loyal world-wide following, and why key media outlets, such as All About Jazz, have been inspired to praise her as "one of the hottest high wire acts in jazz today."

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### **René Marie**

Internationally renowned , Rene Marie released seven recordings prior to signing with Motema Music, including *Renaissance* (self released, 1997), *How Can I Keep From Singing* (MaxJazz, 2000), *Vertigo* (MaxJazz, 2001), *Live at the Jazz Standard* (MaxJazz 2002) and *Serene Renegade* (Maxjazz 2005). *Vertigo* was selected by the Academie Du Jazz (Paris, France) as the Best International Jazz Vocal CD of 2001 (besting Cassandra Wilson and Joni Mitchell) and hailed by The Penguin Guide to Jazz as "the most compelling singer's record outside of Kurt Elling in recent times." *Live at the Jazz Standard* sold over 20,000 albums, charting at #20 on the Billboard Charts in just its third week of release and propelling her to major festival headliner status. René Marie performs regularly in the US & abroad; top headlining dates include the prestigious *Women In Jazz* festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the *Spoletto* festival in Charleston, SC, the *Edinburgh Jazz Festival* (Scotland) *Shanghai Jazz Festival* (China) and many others. Marie parted with MaxJazz in 2006 and began a personal musical quest which led to two self released projects: *'Experiment in Truth'* and *'Slut Energy Theory'* (the soundtrack to her successful one woman show which follows the protagonist, U'dean Morgan, on a journey from sexual abuse to self esteem.) She has also self released two singles: "This Is (Not) A Protest Song," (2008) a fund-raiser for the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, and "Three Nooses Hanging," (2007) the musical embodiment of Marie's reaction to the Jena Six case in Louisiana. [www.renemarie.com](http://www.renemarie.com)