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## PamelaMeans



Pamela Means is a Brooklyn-based Out (spoken), biracial, independent, nationally and internationally touring artist whose “mad-guitar-and-vocal skills,” razor wit poetry and irresistible charm have captivated audiences across the U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia.

She performs both high energy folk as well as jazz in over 150 shows each year at colleges, theaters, clubs, coffeehouses, and festivals. She is a favorite at Black History Month and Women’s Month celebrations, Gay Pride events, and Take Back the Night rallies. With *Truth* as ammunition, a Pamela Means performance brings the struggle for social justice and human dignity to the forefront of a new generation.

A multi-talented performer, singer, songwriter, composer and producer, Means has released seven CDs including her latest, *Precedent*, (2009) which addresses a range of themes from the state of the union to the state of the heart. Her politically-provocative acoustic album, *Single Bullet Theory*, was voted 2004 “Outmusic Outstanding New Recording.” Her *Pamela Means Jazz Project, Vol. 1*, was named “Top Ten Album of 2007” by Muruch entertainment website.

Means has shared the stage with artists including Ani DiFranco, Pete Seeger, Indigo Girls, Joan Baez, Neil Young, Shawn Colvin, Richie Havens, Patty Larkin, Melissa Ferrick, Violent Femmes, Television, The Radiators, Adrian Belew, Leo Kottke and Janis Ian.

Not only is Means an award-winning, politically-provocative guitar virtuoso, she is also a conservatory trained artist newly fronting her own jazz trio, Pamela Means Jazz Project, in which “Means takes her rightful place among contemporary superstar jazz vocalists such as Cassandra Wilson and Norah Jones” (*Curve Magazine*). Means’s sixth and latest album, *Pamela Means Jazz Project, Vol. 1*, (Wirl Records, 2006) is a resurfacing of her roots in classical and jazz guitar study at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. Pamela’s “velvet voice” and “tasty” jazz guitar are front and center on this “live in the studio with no overdubs” set, fresh and frisky in classic jazz trio with drums and upright bass.

With her “dizzying acoustic guitar riffs” (*Boston Globe*) and “powerful songs” (*Time Out NY*) Means is “redefining acoustic music...”(*Washington Blade*).

### **AWARDS**

*Top Ten Album of 2007 ("Pamela Means Jazz Project")*  
*Outmusic Outstanding New Recording - Female*  
*Boston Music Award Nominee Outstanding Contemporary Folk*  
*Wisconsin Female Vocalist of the Year*  
*Wisconsin Folk Artist of the Year*  
*Falcon Ridge Folk Festival Most Wanted New Artist*  
*(2-time) Milwaukee WI Shepherd Express Reader's Poll Best Acoustic Act*

### **DISCOGRAPHY**

*Precedent*  
*Pamela Means Jazz Project, Vol. 1*  
*Single Bullet Theory*  
*Pearls*  
*Cobblestones*  
*Bone Spurs*  
*Seven Romans*

### **ADDITIONAL DISCOGRAPHY, COMPOSER CREDITS**

*Alix Olson, folkpoet - multi-award-winning film and CD projects*  
*Fund for Women Artist - promotional film*  
*The Cat's Dream, "Century XXI" - PBS 8-part documentary*

## What people are saying about Pamela Means...

"Pamela Means came to our school and wowed the crowd with a live show of intense folk music, peppered with articulate words about issues of race, the demise of our democracy and so many other well spoken & thought out TRUTHS about this country. She not only plays with passion for the music, she speaks from her heart, mind and soul. Any venue, organization or educational institution will be better off and inspired by the performance and the presence of this seemingly soft spoken folk rocker, who carries a herself in a BIG way."

**Lluvia Mulvaney-Stanak, Castleton State College Concert Promoter, VT**

"You've got such a deep, deep groove, I can't get out. And I wouldn't want to."

**Ani DiFranco**

"...mad guitar-and-vocal skills..."

**Time Out New York Magazine**

"...if black warrior poet/feminist political activist Audre Lorde had taken up folk singing, she might have attacked her guitar and wrapped her lyrics around it the way Pamela Means does."

**Valley Advocate, Northampton MA**

"Means is, quite simply, superb...Her guitar playing is very tasty indeed, her songs are powerfully melodic and beautifully constructed, her lyrics kick hard, and her voice ranges from tender to seething to outraged, depending on her subject matter. "O.D.", about how American oil policies precipitated the wars against Afghanistan and Iraq, is a must-hear; "Restless" is a gorgeous love song set to ridiculously speedy picking and her version of Billie Holiday's "Strange Fruit" is heart-rending..."

**HiFi News Magazine, UK**

"...redefining acoustic music."

**Washington Blade, Washington DC**

"Pamela Means...spices things up with her feverish guitar strumming..."

**Venus Magazine**

"...dizzying acoustic guitar riffs..."

**Boston Globe, Boston MA**

"...Folkpolitico-rocktress..."

**Alix Olson**

"Singer-songwriter and demigod...one of the fiercest guitar players and politically rooted [singer-songwriters] in the music industry today."

**Curve Magazine**

"With her lay-it-on-the line political lyrics and her wild but classical and jazz tempered guitar stylings, Means has stimulated strong feelings and intense discussions among audiences everywhere."

**The Ark, Ann Arbor MI**

## Pamela Means - Select Appearances

University of Alaska, Anchorage AK  
California State Univ., San Bernardino CA  
Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park CA  
University of the Redlands, Redlands CA  
Pitzer College Claremont CA  
Scripps College Claremont CA  
Humboldt State University, Arcata CA  
University of Redlands, Redlands CA  
Genghis Cohen Los Angeles CA  
Twiggs San Diego CA  
University of Colorado, Boulder CO  
Central Connecticut State University, New Britain CT  
Wesleyan University Middletown CT  
Black Cat Washington DC  
Florida State University, Tallahassee FL  
Boise State University, Boise ID  
Illinois State University, Normal IL  
Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington IL  
Schuba's Chicago IL  
Lasell College, Newton MA  
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams MA  
Hampshire College, Amherst MA  
Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater MA  
Holyoke Community College, MA  
Amherst College, Amherst MA  
Boston University, Boston MA  
Smith College, Northampton MA  
Wheaton College, Norton MA  
Wellesley College, Wellesley MA  
Tufts University, Medford MA  
Brandeis University, Waltham MA  
Club Passim Cambridge MA  
Iron Horse Music Hall Northampton MA  
Goucher College, Towson Park MD  
Bates College, Lewiston ME  
Michigan State University, Lansing MI  
Michigan Womyn's Music Fest Hart MI  
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis MN  
University of Twin Cities, Minneapolis MN  
Washington University, St. Louis MO  
Keene State College, Keene NH  
Princeton University, Princeton NJ  
Cornell University, Ithaca NY  
SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia NY  
SUNY Oneonta, Oneonta NY  
Alfred University NY  
Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute, Troy NY  
Syracuse University, Syracuse NY  
Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville NY  
SUNY Purchase, Purchase NY  
Syracuse University, Syracuse NY  
Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs NY  
SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz NY  
Portland State University Portland OR  
Muhlenberg College, Allentown PA  
Haverford College Haverford PA  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville TN  
Brown University, Providence RI  
University of Vermont, Burlington VT  
Green Mountain College, Poultney VT  
Castleton State College, Castleton VT  
Higher Ground Burlington VT  
Western Washington Univ., Bellingham WA  
Sunset Tavern Seattle WA  
Tractor Tavern Seattle WA  
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee WI  
University of Wisconsin, Madison WI  
University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire WI  
Beloit College, Beloit WI  
Riverside Theater Milwaukee WI  
Riverside Theater Milwaukee WI  
Summerfest Milwaukee WI