

Sports, Entertainment, Arts & Media News

Alicia Waller defies boundaries as she ventures into feminine jazz expression with “Tempo 120,” an epic R&B Odyssey

Emerging soul and jazz vocalist **Alicia Waller** recently released “**Tempo 120**”, an epic R&B odyssey off her debut album **Louder, Then**, out May 29. Conceived in dialogue with a variety of musical idioms within the African diaspora, the release defies gender stereotypes from the perspective of a woman making no apologies for following her muse. A classically trained singer with a masters degree in international relations and music diplomacy, the release finds Waller using her cross-cultural expertise to create tapestries; ranging from her renowned plush, dreamlike sound, to contemporary soul bangers.

“I think a lot about the sound of a Black woman in conversation with the world,” Waller says. “With ‘Tempo 120’ I wanted to write a song that would capture the story of a woman freeing herself from societal expectations of ‘femininity.’ Instead, I wanted to play with a driving sound that is often more associated with masculinity, while telling a story that is, ironically, utterly feminist. The howl at the top says it all.”

Co-produced by bassist/arranger **Marcos Varela** (Gary Bartz, Billy Hart and Geri Allen), Alicia Waller’s debut album is an unapologetically ambitious introduction to her musical world. Steeped in her love of contemporary R&B and jazz, and filtered through a global array of influences, the release represents the culmination of years of creative evolution and collaboration.



Alicia Waller poses as new jazz feminine phenomenon on cover of “Tempo 120” single from her debut album “Louder, Then” set to be released May 29. (Photo Credit: Kendra Irene)

Following her 2020 EP, *Some Hidden Treasure*, the duo’s partnership deepened, aiming to replace traditional songwriting with “world building”. The result is filled with rich, diverse textures that emphasize the density and conversation between parts.

Beyond her influences, Waller’s music aims to defy the false stereotypes of a female artist, opting for a sound that is heavy, driven and rebellious. Defying the patriarchal boundaries of feminine expression and forged from a conviction for deep devel-

opment and introspection, *Louder, Then* is a declaration to herself and the world that her voice will be heard.

Tracklist:

1. Tempo 120

Alicia Waller flexes jazz vocal creative muscles in her “odyssey,” out on May 29.



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Upcoming Shows:
May 28 – New York, NY – Grey Lady (*Louder, Then* Release Celebration)
June 3 – Barcelona, ES – Jamboree Jazz
December 4 – Scottsdale, AZ – ASU Kerr

World Deer Expo, the largest Hunting Expo in world, announces inaugural 3-night ‘Field & Stage’ Music Fest from sports-Military 3

ilies, and visitors from across the country for an immersive weekend unlike any other.

For more information: Fieldand-StageMusic.com

ABOUT THE WORLD DEER EXPO:
World Deer Expo is the largest hunting expo in the world and has served as a cornerstone event for outdoor enthusiasts for more than four decades. Founded by Bob Coker, the expo annually attracts exhibitors, industry leaders, celebrities, and attendees from across America to the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex. The event celebrates hunting heritage, outdoor traditions, conservation, family entertainment, and the lifestyle that unites generations of sportsmen and outdoor communities. For more information: WorldDeer-Expo.com

ABOUT JAKE OWEN:
Jake Owen is a country music super star whose career includes a collection of gold and platinum records, 10 No. 1 singles, and more than 2.5 billion U.S. on-demand streams. The ACM Award winner is signatured by his laid-back style and chart-topping hits including "Barefoot Blue Jean Night," "Beachin'," "Anywhere With You," "Alone With You" and "The One That Got Away." The recording artist, headlining entertainer and actor has released ten studio albums, including his most recent, the critically-acclaimed *DREAMS TO DREAM* album (co-produced alongside Shooter Jennings). Owen has headlined tours around the world. He launched his "Dreams To Dream" tour in February 2026.; the 12-date tour canvassed Washington DC, York, PA, St. Paul, MN and Des Moines, IA. Beyond the stage, Owen is a music

business executive, philanthropist, and father of two, serving as a partner in Nashville-based Good Company Entertainment and founder of The Jake Owen Foundation, a charity organization that provides financial support to children suffering with life threatening and catastrophic childhood diseases, as well as youth organizations in his hometown of Vero Beach, Florida.

ABOUT ELI YOUNG BAND:
Led by an unmistakable vocal and bringing a Texas-rock edge to modern country for 25 years, the Eli Young Band's never-changing lineup of Mike Eli, James Young, Jon Jones and Chris Thompson have spent decades on the run, growing from hometown heroes into globe-trotting, chart-topping pioneers. Founded in Denton, Texas, and rising to become arena-packing icons of the state’s independent

country scene, EYB’s 2005 album *Level* launched the band into the mainstream, followed by three career Billboard Top 5 albums including the No.1-110,000 Towns and Platinum Life At Best. Boasting back-to-back Number One singles with the 5X Platinum “Crazy Girl” in 2011 and 3X Platinum “Even If It Breaks Your Heart” (2012), plus the Platinum Number One “Drunk Last Night,” 2X Platinum Number One “Love Ain’t” and more, the band’s unbroken streak of success has now led to a millions-strong fandom.

ABOUT THE OAK RIDGE BOYS:
Theirs is one of the most distinctive and recognizable sounds in

the music industry. The four-part harmonies and upbeat songs of The Oak Ridge Boys have spawned dozens of Country hits and two Pop smashes, earned them Grammy, Dove, CMA, and ACM awards and garnered a host of other industry and fan accolades. Every time they step before an audience, the Oaks bring four decades of charted singles, and 50 years of tradition, to a stage show widely acknowledged as among the most exciting anywhere. Their string of hits includes the Country-Pop chart-buster *Elvira*, as well as *Bobbie Sue*, *Dream On*, *Thank God For Kids*, *American Made*, *I Guess It Never Hurts To Hurt Sometimes*, *Fancy Free*, *Gonna Take A Lot Of River*, and many others. In

2009, they covered a *White Stripes* song, receiving accolades from Rock reviewers. The group has scored 12 gold, three platinum, and one double platinum album—plus one double platinum single—and had more than a dozen national Number One singles and over 30 Top Ten hits.

Remember those who sacrificed their lives to make America Free!

Memorial Day is May 25th

James and Elful capture conference titles at American Conf. Outdoor Championships

DENTON, Texas — Jazmyn James and Judy Elful were victorious in their respective events (shot put and 400-meter hurdles) during the American Conference Outdoor Championships at Norma Knobel Hunt Stadium. Overall, Memphis brought home two victories, four top-three finishes and six personal-bests. A full list of the two victories, top-five finishes and PRs can be found below. Comprehensive meet results can be found in the link above. Freshman thrower Isabelle Cruickshank kicked off the meet Thursday with a throw of 50.59 meters for a third-place finish. On the men’s side, Edward

O’Brien finished fourth with a personal-best throw of 61.88 meters. On Friday, James was crowned the shot put champion after a career-best throw of 16.54 meters, which ranks No. 33 in the nation. The next day, James put up another outstanding performance in the discus with a 54.93-meter throw to secure second place. Elful provided Saturday's biggest highlight by capturing her first career conference title. The junior dominated the 400-meter hurdles, clocking a winning time of 57.36. Dejona Simpson recorded a fifth-place finish in the 200-meter with a time of 23.72. The team of

Gizel Clayton, Rickaiya Whitman, Destiny Jenkins and Kaseiana Meriweather finished fourth in the 4x100 relay with a time of 45.46. Qualifying Tigers will continue competition at the NCAA East Regional Championships in Lexington, Kentucky, from Wednesday, May 27 through Saturday, May 30.

How to follow the Tigers: For complete information on Memphis Tiger Cross Country and Track & Field, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.



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Dr. J. Jacques Carter
Chair, MPCC Board of Directors