

Written by Charles Waring

Thursday, 23 June 2016 08:10 - Last Updated Thursday, 23 June 2016 10:46

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When **Becca Stevens** put her own indelible folk-jazz spin on Frank Ocean's R&B hit 'Thinking Bout You' in 2014, it was one of those rare cases of a cover version trumping its original source material - so much so, in fact, that Stevens' haunting rendition is regarded by many as the definitive performance of that particular song. 'Thinking Bout You' was just one of many standout cuts on Stevens' third album, '**Perfect Animal**' - attributed to the **Becca**

## **Stevens Band**

- which cogently demonstrated how the singer/songwriter originally from the city of Winston-Salem is skillfully able to distil elements from folk, pop, rock and jazz to create a unique series of soundscapes and musical vignettes that elude easy categorisation. Such is the stunning artistry of this gifted 32-year-old North Carolina singer/songwriter, whose influences are wide and varied and whose music doesn't sit comfortably in any particular genre.

A former student of New York's prestigious and increasingly influential New School For Jazz & Contemporary Music - whose more recent alumni include Robert Glasper, José James, and Marcus Strickland - Stevens has the status of a go-to guest collaborator; her cameo appearances over the last couple of years not only also attest to the desirability of her musical talent in the eyes and ears of other musicians but also her broad and sweeping eclecticism - she's sung with **Snarky Puppy** (she appears on their recent album, 'Family Dinner Vol. 2'), wunderkind auteur **Jacob Collier**, trumpeter **Ambrose**

## **Akinmusire**

singer

## **José James**

- who's an old New School classmate of hers - in addition to jazz pianists

## **Billy Childs**

, **Taylor Eigsti**

and

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### **Brad Mehldau**

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With a keenly-anticipated new album in the pipeline - titled '**Regina**' and scheduled for an early 2017 release - Becca Stevens star is firmly in the ascendant and to underline the growing appreciation of her talent, BBC Radio 6's

### **Lauren Laverne**

has named the singer in her line-up of '

### **Wonder Women**

' (which includes Roisin Murphy, Camille O'Sullivan and Gwennie) who will be doing series of summer concerts at

### **London's Globe Theatre**

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Ahead of her concert on **Monday 18th July** - which takes place at the **Sam Wanamaker Playhouse** , on the

Globe Theatre site - Becca Stevens talked to SJF's Charles Waring about her upcoming London gig, her forthcoming album, some of her musical collaborations and

*that*

Frank Ocean song...

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**SEE BECCA STEVENS BAND LIVE AT THE SAM  
WANAMAKER PLAYHOUSE IN LONDON ON MONDAY  
JULY 18th July**

Read Becca Stevens Band Live review here: <http://www.soulandjazzandfunk.com/reviews/4050-becca-stevens-band--cheltenham-jazz-festival-152016.html>