

# RIGAS RITMI

2013 Artist sheet

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## **ROBERTA GAMBARINI**

2007 GRAMMY NOMINEE  
BEST JAZZ VOCAL ALBUM – 'EASY TO LOVE'

2010 JAZZ JOURNALISTS AWARDS  
WINNER – FEMALE JAZZ VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

2010 GRAMMY NOMINEE  
BEST JAZZ VOCAL ALBUM – 'SO IN LOVE'

Celebrated throughout the world by fans, critics and many of the world's greatest musicians, Roberta Gambarini became a fast-rising star – and a GRAMMY Nominee - with the 2006 release of her debut album, 'Easy to Love.' A smashing success on all fronts, Roberta's debut secured her spot on the international touring circuit, where she continuously graces the most prestigious venues and festivals. In 2008, she made her major label debut with 'You Are There,' a superb duet with the legendary pianist Hank Jones. Mr. Jones – who accompanied most of the celebrated vocalists of the 20th century such as Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughan, Carmen McRae, Peggy Lee, Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Nat "King" Cole, and Billy Eckstine – declared Ms. Gambarini as the best singer to emerge in over 60 years.

The Boston Globe named Roberta as the "true successor to Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, and Carmen McRae." Roberta's new album, 'So In Love,' out on August 25, 2009, is a stunning affirmation of her status as one of the most important vocal artists performing today.

All great singers try to surround themselves with the world's finest musicians and Roberta is no exception. On 'So In Love,' recorded by Al Schmitt at Capitol Studios in the summer and fall of 2008, Roberta's extraordinarily pliable vocal skills, unerring musicality, and improvisational inventiveness are backed by none other than James Moody, Roy Hargrove, Tamir Hendelman, Eric Gunnison, Gerald Clayton, Chuck Berghofer, Neil Swainson, George Mraz, Jake Hanna, Al Foster, Montez Coleman, and Jeff Hamilton.

Roberta honed her craft and built her reputation and relationships on the road – like all true great musicians – touring and performing with Ron Carter, Herbie Hancock, Slide Hampton, Roy Hargrove, Jimmy Heath, Hank Jones, Christian McBride, James Moody, Mark O'Connor and Toots Thielemans, among many others, as well as leading her own groups. Each and every musician on 'So In Love' is now part of her American family, and represents Roberta's American experience since she moved to the States from her native Italy in the summer of 1998.

Roberta's parents instilled in her a love of jazz, but her musical language is vast, including opera, pop, Classical, country and blues. She offers fresh and imaginative take on the Beatles' "Golden Slumbers," from 'Abbey Road,' but here, her medley leads to "Here, There and Everywhere," from 'Revolver.' Her honey and bourbon sound is wrapped in the velvet harmonies of Tamir Hendelman's solo piano accompaniment on the classic tune, "Over the Rainbow." Roberta's singing is spectacular in any language, but the gorgeous Italian song, "Estate," which Roberta learned from its composer, Bruno Martino, while living in Milan, is sung with achingly beautiful lyricism that brings the words to life, even for the non-Italian speakers. Backing Gambarini, the rising young jazz piano star Gerald Clayton blends his surprisingly mature playing with the confident work of veterans Chuck Berghofer and Jake Hanna.

Born in the northwestern Italian city of Torino, Roberta Gambarini started singing in local jazz clubs as a teen-ager before moving to Milan, where she worked in radio and television and began recording under her own name in 1986. In 1998, two weeks after arriving in the United States with a scholarship from the New England Conservatory of Music, she stunned many in the jazz world with a third place finish in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocal Competition.

A dynamic performer with virtuosic vocal chops, stunning musicality, and un-wavering intonation, she draws rave reviews and enthusiastic fan support wherever she performs. And until her North American debut, 'Easy to Love' (Groovin' High/Kindred Rhythm), was released on June 6, 2006, she had done so with just word of mouth alone.

'Easy to Love' was nominated for a GRAMMY® in 2007 in the Best Jazz Vocal Album category (along with albums by Diana Krall, Nancy Wilson, Karrin Allyson and Nancy King). Roberta's "formidable

talent" (DownBeat Magazine) has also garnered her wins as the 2007 Female Jazz Singer of the Year from the Jazz Journalists Association (JJA); the 2007 Talent Deserving Wider Recognition; and the 2008 Rising Star Female Vocalist of the Year, both from DownBeat Magazine's Annual Critics Poll. On February 12, 2008, Roberta made her major label debut with 'You Are There' (Groovin' High/Emarcy), a collection of 14 hauntingly beautiful melodies, with the legendary pianist, Hank Jones. The music was recorded in one afternoon; Roberta and Hank had no concept for the album – just 25 tunes they liked and thought would be interesting to record. "There were no isolation booths, no headphones, no over dubs," Gambarini remembers, "just a microphone and a stool alongside the piano. The sound would be just what you would hear had you been in someone's living room playing among friends." That is the magic of Hank Jones.

Ask Roberta Gambarini who she is, and what she is, and she'll simply answer, "I am a singer."