

SELAH SUE AND THE GALLANDS

Mavin'



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An exciting double comeback for the Belgian soul-pop queen who, following her first live album, unveils her collaboration with the amazing father-son duo The Gallands.

Their chemistry was so obvious and natural, almost at the snap of a finger, that making an album together was a no-brainer. After ending 2025 on a high note with *As One*, her first live album released in December, Selah Sue follows up with a brand new project, in perfect symbiosis with The Gallands, a duo founded in 2020. This time, the singer has conceived an album not as a solo project, but surrounded by a family duo of seasoned musicians: legendary jazz drummer Stéphane Galland and his son Elvin, himself a keyboardist, producer, musical director, and composer (he has already worked with Damso, Helena, Mentissa, and S.Pri Noir, among others).

“Last June, the Jazz Middelheim festival in Antwerp gave me carte blanche,” says Stéphane Galland. «For the occasion, I wanted to come up with something a little original, and that’s when I had the idea of inviting Selah to join us. Elvin and I had long drea-

*med of having a singer accompany our music. We were thrilled when Selah said yes. Beforehand, she immersed herself in one of our compositions and added melodies and lyrics. When we heard the result, the song *Another Way*, which opens the album after a short intro, Elvin and I instantly got goosebumps. We then wrote *Rise as One* and *Into Forever* together and played these three tracks at the festival. It went so well that we wanted to continue the adventure and build an entire album together.»*

Elvin Galland adds: “These first three tracks have very different styles while remaining coherent, with a real identity. It’s quite rare when that happens! We realized we could have fun with different aesthetics—a very exciting prospect.”

With her innate sense of groove and ease in both relaxed improvisations and more sustained rhythmic passages, Selah Sue has found valuable partners in this golden family. *“To be honest, I wasn’t doing very well when the Gallands contacted me,” admits the singer, who has always been open about her mental health. My husband encouraged*

me to give it a try, because he thinks Stéphane Galland is a giant. We all got together at Elvin's house and I was immediately blown away by what they played for me—it was the first time instrumental music had ever had such an effect on me. It fascinated and galvanized me at the same time. As soon as we started jamming together, instinctively, our first draft was the right one.»

The initial plan for an EP quickly became a full album, with the intention of the three of them returning to the stage as soon as possible to prolong this unique experience. This live spirit remains palpable until the very last note, carried by a wide range of organic instruments, including Federico Pecoraro's bass, guitars, string arrangements, a Rhodes electric keyboard (Elvin Galland's signature touch) and Stéphane Galland's famous subtle drumming, which has made his reputation. “*You can clearly hear our three identities on this album, and Selah's voice ties it all together,*” says Elvin.

Reassured by the prospect of being part of a group and proud of this fruitful project, Selah Sue regained her serenity and strength during the creative process behind *Movin'*. Her lyrics reflect this transition from darkness to light: “*My state of mind completely changed between Another Way, written during a period of depression, and later songs such as Ready to Play, You & Me, and Guiding You, which exude much more lightness and joy. Working with these two did me a world of good, and you can hear it!*” She also cites Meshell Ndegeocello's spoken-word flow as one of her sources of inspiration for this project.

While her solo albums often take her a long time to complete, the songwriting and recording of this collective album took only a few months—a condensed timeframe that re-

flects the chemistry between them. The impressive lineup includes sound engineer and producer Russell Elevado (who has worked with Al Green, D'Angelo, The Roots, Kamasi Washington, and others), who handled the mixing here.

Refined between various Brussels studios (including the legendary ICP), Elvin Galland's home studio, and Selah Sue's house near Leuven (where the singer wrote the lyrics, invented the harmonies, and recorded her voice at dawn, when her tone was at its deepest), *Movin'* definitely lives up to its name. This album breathes vitality, hope, and freedom. Selah Sue explains this choice: *“Each song conveys a specific message that can be summed up as follows: don't let fear hold you back, don't avoid your grief, don't try to control everything. On the contrary, you have to keep moving, stop resisting the turmoil, and accept being carried along. I apply these principles to my own life by going for a run every day in nature, whatever the weather!»*

The trio is keeping up the pace: their tour will kick off in early March, a few weeks before the album's release, to spread this human warmth in intimate settings where, in addition to their collaborative tracks, they and she may well revisit a handful of Selah Sue's older songs. A summit meeting not to be missed!