

SHAINA
SHEPHERD

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SINGER SONGWRITER EDUCATOR
PERFORMER COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

Shaina Shepherd is a singer, songwriter, vocal teacher, and community organizer in Seattle, WA. Known for her pervasive style as front-woman to soul-grunge band BEARAXE, her notable vocal stylings have brought her into various creative spaces — from collaborating with Duff McKagan, Chong The Nomad and Acid Tongue to sharing stages with rock stars like Dave Matthews and Thunderpussy to being a soloist with the classical ensembles around the country. Inspired by the parallels between gospel and garbage metal, Shaina Shepherd is not your average vocalist. Living in the city where both Soundgarden and Quincy Jones cut their teeth, Shaina lends her soulful voice to projects of all genres.

“Vocalist
Shaina
Shepherd
pushes her
vocals past
“soul” territory
into “shreds,”

Inspired by Nina Simone's commitment to representing the times with the ivories at her fingers, Shaina Shepherd tells heartfelt stories of love, loss, and personal power. She describes herself as an anthem artist translating pivotal moments in human history through her unique form of poetry. Her biggest inspirations are often from Mark Twain, James Weldon Johnson, Maya Angelou. A teacher at heart, Shaina's songs often include a moment of audience interaction or shared moments of reflection in the room. Her dynamic vocal combines the power of theater with the tender introspection of American folk music

like Sharon Jones fronting Mötley Crüe.”

— Graham Issac, Nada Mucho

in a commitment to every song, story, and note being real, raw, and present.

Shaina grew up around gospel music and not much else. She would watch her mother sing with the church choir and emulate the steady richness of her tone. Her

passion for vocal technique led her to opera, then to musical theater, and

then right back to opera. Shaina studied and worked in the classical music world for many years before finding her sound as a singer and songwriter. After graduating from New York University, she was immersed in the symphony world as an administrator -- working closely with classical musicians. This experience inspired her to pick an instrument and realize there are no limitations in creativity. She started playing the piano in November 2017. While finding her voice on the piano, she was finding her voice as the lead singer of Seattle prog-rock and soul band BEARAXE. BEARAXE has allowed Shepherd to hone her craft as a gospel-influenced rock artist exploring classicism, sexism, and self-care themes. And as her relationship with the piano grew, she began to weave similar themes through a lens of vulnerability and thematic strong structures akin to the operas and oratorios she studied as a new musician. Shaina's influences include Fanny, Kurt Carr, Jeff Buckley, Leontyne Price, Quincy Jones, and above all others, Nina Simone.

Shaina is also the co-founder of The Artist Reclamation Movement, or The ARM, an organization working to reclaim the artist industry to serve the creators first, shift the culture at large to respect the contributions of creative professionals, and work to build up an artistic middle class.

PRESS

ESSENCE - The First-Ever Nordstrom-Commissioned Holiday Song Is Performed By This Black Woman - Meet Shaina Shepherd, A Seattle vocalist with the voice of a rock & roll angel.

KEXP - Shaina Shepherd Wonders If We'll Find a Cure for "The Virus" (KEXP Premiere) - Shaina Shepherd is one of our city's brightest voices, to the point where she barely needs an introduction.

AMERICAN SONGWRITER - American Songwriter's 12 Artists to Watch in 2022 - There are few singing voices on the planet that can match Shaina Shepherd's and none can out battle.

THE STRANGER - A Message to the City from Shaina Shepherd - Her dynamic vocals combine the power of theater with the tender introspection of American folk music.

AUDIOFEMME - Vocal Powerhouse Brings Seattle Together with "The Will Never Be Another You" - Community work that brings together & benefits Seattle musicians is not an uncommon for Shepherd.