

Blues Singer Annie Mack Branches Out with New Americana Release

ANNIE MACK | TESTIFY

Release Date: January 29, 2021 | Going for Adds: January 8, 2021



“inspirational and anthemic” -**City Pages**

"Annie Mack may sing the blues but she has a heart as big as her voice." -**WCCO**

Radio Focus Tracks:

#3 - “Shadows of a Kingdom” (AAA/Americana)

#1 - “Testify” (Americana/Blues)

Visionary blues and roots artist **Annie Mack** branches out on her new EP *Testify*, mixing folk, rock and country gospel into her unique soulful sound. Digging deep, she embarks on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment as she takes the reins as songwriter and producer.

Although only 5 tracks, this power-packed release features Mack at her finest, singing her truth with strength, conviction and unflinching honesty. From the opening notes of her gritty, gospel-inspired “**Testify**” to the radio-friendly roots anthem “**Get On the Train,**” she preaches love and self-acceptance, with a call for us to embrace and stand up for our whole selves.

Written over a few years, Mack began the recording process in February 2020, teaming up with producer **Matt Patrick** (Jeremy Messersmith, Reina del Cid, Cory Wong) at **The Library Studio** in her hometown of Minneapolis. Forced to take a break when COVID hit, they returned to the studio in late spring after George Floyd was murdered.

“This was my defiance to murder and death being used to silence and to instill fear in black people,” Mack says. “The protests were happening just miles away, and the city was in the process of healing. Our work took on an even more purposeful intention--to create something strong and beautiful and Black from Minnesota.”

Mack and Patrick brought together some of the top Twin Cities players to bring her musical vision to life, including guitarist **Jeremy Ylvisaker** (Andrew Bird, Jenny Lewis, Justin Vernon, The Suburbs), drummer **Noah Levy** (Mason Jennings, Mandy Moore, BoDeans, Brian Setzer), bassist **Aaron Fabbri** (Romantica, Vicky Emerson). Joining Mack on the background vocals are venerated jazz and R&B vocalists **Tonia Hughes** and **Sara Renner**. Together this band of eclectic musicians teamed up in a unique moment to make a recording that speaks to this moment in time when our spirits are broken and hope is in limited supply. “After having everything taken away I needed to create something powerful, honest and healing for myself and others--a kind of love letter to Black women,” Mack says.

Testify is indeed the album we need right now--honest, soul-filled songs to lift our spirits and spring us into action so we can make ourselves and the world a little more loving.



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ANNIE MACK

is a soulful singer and unflinching songwriter who writes from the gut and demands your attention.

Raised in North Minneapolis and currently living in Rochester, MN, Annie Mack grew up in the 80s, influenced by the rich Twin Cities music scene. "I think it was just by environment," she says. "Music was such a big part of my youth--just the soundtrack really. I think about The Gap Band, of course, Prince, all the funk and the soul."

Inspired by her mother's love of music, she started singing, performing at local joints. "After my mother passed away, the thing that really stood out to me was to do something that you like before you leave this

life." Although never intending it to be a career, it quickly became one.

Working her way through the Midwest bar scene, Mack built a reputation as a powerhouse blues singer getting national recognition at some of North America's top festivals, including **The John Coltrane Jazz Festival**, **Thunder Bay Music Festival**, **Twin Cities Jazz Festival** and the **Bayfront Blues Festival** for 6 years running. In addition to playing some of the top blues and jazz clubs like **Buddy Guy's Legends** (Chicago) and **The Dakota** (Minneapolis), Mack has recently garnered the attention of indie rock tastemakers like **The Current**, landing her gigs at prestigious performing arts centers and rock venues like **First Avenue**--the iconic club where Prince filmed *Purple Rain*. She has shared the bill with such wide-ranging artists as **Dessa** (hip hop), **Ondara** (folk), **Cloud Cult** (indie rock) and blues legend **Robert Cray**. She is featured in the book *50 Women in the Blues*, alongside **Bessie Smith**, **Bonnie Raitt**, **Mavis Staples**, **Sister Rosetta Tharpe**, **Ruthie Foster** and **Janis Joplin**.

In 2013, Mack released her debut album *Baptized in the Blues*, which put her on the blues map and established her as a powerhouse performer and singer. After keeping up a rigorous touring schedule, she took time off to record her 2017 EP *Tell It Like It Is*--a more personal collection of songs about recovery and healing that showcased her serious songwriting chops. Now, with the release of her new recording *Testify* (2021) she solidifies her position as a top-tier singer, songwriter and producer who has found her musical home, performing her own unique blend of blues, country, rock and soul. The release finds her confident and comfortable, owning her place as a rising star in the roots music scene.

When not busy making music or rearing her three children, Annie Mack works as a death doula, accompanying people who are dying and supporting their families.

For the latest news and tour dates, visit www.anniemackmusic.com.

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