

JULIAN FLEISHER

1975



1975 is Julian Fleisher's roof-raising, barn-burning concert event devoted to the proposition that 1975 was the very best year in American Popular Song. Using brilliant and surprising arrangements of hits by Joni Mitchell, The Eagles, Stevie Wonder, songs from *The Wiz*, Kenny Loggins and Barbra Streisand's biggest selling album, *A Star Is Born*, Natalie Cole, Fleetwood Mac and more, Fleisher makes a remarkably convincing case for the unmatched genius of this singular year in music. "Something came together in the middle of that decade," he submits. "Pop music was combining the sophistication of the Great American Songbook era with the urgency of Rock, the deeply personal statements of the emergent singer/songwriters and the irresistible power of Funk, Soul and R&B — it was a time of unique cross-pollination among writers, producers and artists. The result? Some of the best, most challenging, moving and memorable pop songs in American history. I mean, you gotta marvel at a moment in which *Songs in the Key of Life*, *Hejira* and *Hotel California* all emerge at virtually the same time."



But **1975**, the concert, is no exercise in simple nostalgia. In the same fashion that artists throughout the decades have proven the timelessness of the "Great American Songbook" by submitting the songs of Ellington, Porter, Gershwin and their ilk to an almost limitless number of unique interpretations, Fleisher and his infamous *Rather Big Band* run the songs of the mid-1970s through a gauntlet of brash, bold new arrangements which simultaneously refract and confirm the genius of this unique catalogue. The result is a thrilling evening of powerhouse performances that remind audiences just how resilient, imaginative and *alive* the Great American Songbook truly is.

Julian Fleisher is a singer / songwriter / producer / curator whose role in the musical life of New York can be hard to distill into just a few words. From Lincoln Center to Joe's Pub, from BAM to WNYC (where he hosts two shows devoted to music and performance) he has embedded himself deeply into the creative life of the city. The list of his performances, productions, collaborations and creative exploits is far too long to enumerate. *Culture Craver* calls him "one of New York's treasured talents". *The LA Times* calls him a "New York nightclub supernova." *The New York Times Magazine* extolled his brand of music as "Smart, genre-busting pop," while the *Washington Post* highlights his "brainy, oddly tilted versions of such unlikely pop tunes as "Rainy Days and Mondays" and "For What It's Worth" backed by a slick 11-piece group that blew the roof off Joe's Pub...I'm definitely coming back for another try, and probably another one after that. I like smart music, and Julian Fleisher is way smart." For a complete biography and more, visit julianfleisher.com.

