



LETTING GO

***Known for jazz covers,
Halie Loren will
surprise listeners
with an album of
original songs***

*Words by Bob Keefer
Photos by Todd Cooper*

Halie Loren's new album, due out this spring, doesn't have a name yet. The tracks aren't fully mixed. There's no release party on the books. And the popular Eugene singer-songwriter isn't even sure what the exact release date will be, other than "sometime in April."

But this much is certain: Loren's new album will mark the fulfillment of a lifetime dream. After a decade of successfully recording and performing jazz standards written by other people, a decade that has taken her around the world to sing, the songwriter set out last year to embrace her own inner voice. A lot of that voice will be about letting go, from a singer who describes herself, with a smile, as a "control freak." For the first time she's bringing in an outside producer, a prominent British musician.

Loren — she also sings with The Sugar Beets and her quintet halie and the moon — has been writing songs since she was 14. By then she was already a veteran performer, having sung on stages since the age of 10. Her first public performance was at the Sitka Fine Arts Camp in Sitka, Alaska, where she grew up.

Songwriting turned out to be a frightening task.