**Katie Oates**

Bio

Katie Oates has been singing for as long as she can remember. The daughter of a preacher, she belted hymns from her crib as a toddler to wake up her parents. Over the years she has sung a very wide variety of music genres (classical arias, folk, music theatre, blues, jazz, country, spirituals/sacred) in diverse venues: churches, choirs, a choir for unhoused people, oratorios, theatres of all sizes, bars, festivals, conferences, house concerts and listening rooms.

In 2016 and 2017 Katie released her own, original music: a 5-song EP, *Something True*, and a full cd of originals songs, *Play Me*. In 2019 she was asked by her friend and mentor, Si Kahn, to choose, arrange, and record 14 songs of his culminating in her 4th album (2021’s *We Go On: Si Kahn’s Songs of Hope in Hard Times*). Staying true to her varied musical past, her albums always contain a mix of genres. “I have a comfortable two octave vocal range and experience singing in diverse settings,” Katie says “so I make use of that in the songs I write and choose to perform. I can produce a pure, clear sound or rough up my voice for a more pop sound—I can even scat a little.”

In Katie’s 5th album (*Edge of a Hurricane*, 2024), she plumbed the depths of human emotion in her songwriting. She confesses: “Some songs are quite different from what people expect to hear from me—or any folk singer. I travel through anger, humor, despair, hope, sass, sincerity and everything in between. Even the most hopeful ballads on the album all emerge from a hard-fought battle with despair. Because in the end I think it’s as simple as a choice we each have to make between darkness and light. Hate seems so powerful, but all hate can do is destroy; only love can create something new. So I choose love. I hope you will, too. And maybe our small little acts will make a difference.”