

STOMPIN' SWAYIN' TIMELESS AMERICANA

# Aireene Espiritu

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Photo by Aki Kumar. 2016 Waterfront Blues Festival, Portland, OR.

**Aireene Espiritu** is a singer/songwriter with over 20 years experience performing as a solo artist as well as with other bands covering various genres from folk, blues, gospel, rhythm and blues to world music - a mix of stompn', swayin', and timeless Americana.

She was born in the Philippines and moved to the United States at 10 years old, growing up in the third culture: the old country, the new country and a blend of both worlds. Mainly influenced by listening to Alan Lomax's field recordings from the South and growing up listening to her uncles' Filipino folk guitar fingerpicking, her music is reminiscent of front porch storytelling, of ghosts and the living, times of laughter and tears. She tours solo as well as with her band as **Aireene & The Itch**.

Her fifth album, *Back Where I Belong* (2016), pays tribute to the great rhythm and blues artist Sugar Pie DeSanto along with favorite American and Filipino folk songs produced by **Little Village Foundation**, a non-profit label founded by venerable blues keyboardist Jim Pugh. The album has received positive recognition and reviews from **KQED's The California Report**, **San Francisco Chronicle**, **Living Blues** and **No Depression** magazines. **4.5 out of 5 stars review All About Jazz**.

**A Color-Coded Symphony** is her latest project which premiered at the San Francisco Asian Art Museum in 2017. This performance piece is a musical experience connecting the audience's ethnic origins to rhythms of the world and whose aim is to nurture curiosity and openness towards other cultures through music.

www.AIREENEESPIRITU.com

## Notable Venues / Projects

Freight & Salvage | Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival | Waterfront Blues Festival | San Jose Jazz Festival | Yerba Buena Gardens Festival | San Francisco Asian Art Museum | Kearney Street Workshop | Kularts | San Francisco Filipino American Jazz Festival | Oakland Asian Cultural Center | Glide Ensemble

## Notable Radio/Press

KPFA Berkeley | KALW San Francisco | KPIG Santa Cruz | KGO San Francisco | KKUP San Jose | SF Chronicle | No Depression | KQED California Report | Living Blues | All About Jazz

**Los Angeles Times, Jonny Whiteside**  
*"Folk singer-songwriter Aireene Espiritu works in the elemental substance of vernacular American music with an uncanny ease. Whether blues, hillbilly, soul, folk or R&B...demonstrates masterly command of each. Her original compositions mix deft lyrical construction and classic form just as impressively...An authentic, authoritative vocalist and with distinctly sensitive manner of phrasing"*

## No Depression, Terry Roland

*"A rare breed of artist, a soul singer, a folk troubadour, a blues artist, a busk show princess, a skiffle tear-stained street singer with a heart as big as the history of the music that drives her. And in the final analysis, she is a storyteller without borders or cultural limitations."*

