



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marcus Goldhaber **The Promise of You**

**Captivating New York jazz vocalist, songwriter, and bandleader
Marcus Goldhaber to release sixth album, *The Promise of You*, in spring 2026**

**His first studio release in nearly a decade, marking a return to recording
after co-founding harlem's speakeasy jazz club room 623**

**Featuring pianist Art Hirahara, bassist Michael O'Brien, drummer Alvester Garnett,
with special guests Paul Bollenback, Summer Camargo, Jay Rattman & Keita Ogawa**

The *Promise of You* is the forthcoming sixth album by vocalist, songwriter, and bandleader Marcus Goldhaber, and his first studio release in nearly a decade. To be released via his label, Fallen Apple Records, the album marks Goldhaber's return to recording following his role as co-founder and Creative Director of Harlem's speakeasy jazz club Room 623.

Initially an informal gathering, Room 623 evolved into a consistently sold-out space centered on close listening and shared presence. Over time, it also became a proving ground for Goldhaber's writing and arranging. "Room 623 was an incredible space to test drive everything after the songs were either just written or arranged," Goldhaber says. "It was a beautiful privilege to debut so many of those songs in such an intimate space and connect with audiences in a very personal way."

Running the club became a nightly practice of building musical community, rooted in a shared love of music, diversity, positivity, inclusivity, and the legacy of Harlem jazz. That commitment, however, required a level of focus that ultimately pulled Goldhaber away from recording and touring. "Though I wasn't able to get into the studio while serving as the Creative Director of Room 623, I kept writing and performing my new material," he says. "During that time, I was able to debut many of these songs and arrangements to the crowds uptown — gauging reactions, exploring new ideas in real time, and allowing the music to evolve and mature."

That sustained practice — and the time and energy invested in the club — helped forge *The Promise of You*, emphasizing what Goldhaber describes as "hope, partnership, companionship, and promise."

Co-produced with pianist Art Hirahara, the album features a core ensemble with bassist Michael O'Brien and drummer Alvester Garnett, alongside guest appearances by GRAMMY®-nominated guitarist Paul Bollenback, saxophonist and clarinetist Jay Rattman, trumpeter Summer Camargo, and 3x

GRAMMY®-winning percussionist Keita Ogawa.

Due in Spring 2026, with pre-orders beginning February 1, the album brings together six original compositions by Goldhaber and six standards from the Great American Songbook, with arrangements developed in close collaboration with Hirahara. The balance reflects Goldhaber's parallel commitments to songwriting and interpretation, and a return to a working environment where the integrity and identity of each song could take precedence. "During those years, I was always distracted, as my attention was always dominated by the needs of the club," Goldhaber says. "It felt incredible to be able to return to a space where Art and I could fully explore what the songs wanted to be — no distractions."

Goldhaber has earned sustained critical recognition for his lyric-centered approach and storytelling instincts. In a four-star review, *People* wrote that he "will have you giddy one moment and melancholy the next and loving every note." *All About Jazz* praised his work as "like a plate full of comfort food," while *JazzTimes* described it as "wonderfully imaginative," and *Jazziz* called his music "exciting and fresh." His albums have also received nominations from the MAC Awards, *Hot House Magazine*, and *BroadwayWorld*.

Goldhaber's musical foundation is rooted in the Great American Songbook. After earning a BFA in musical theatre from SUNY Fredonia, he moved to New York and worked steadily as an actor, while spending increasing time in jazz clubs and late-night jam sessions. By the mid-2000s, he made a deliberate shift toward jazz performance and recording.

Between 2006 and 2017, Goldhaber released five albums — *The Moment After*, *Take Me Anywhere*, *Almost Love*, *A Lovely Way to Spend an Evening*, and *Carry You On*. Working with a rotating cast of New York musicians, he initially focused on lyric-driven interpretations of standards before increasingly centering original songwriting. *Carry You On*, a non-jazz project,

Marcus Goldhaber The Promise of You

extended that impulse beyond the bandstand, aiming to connect civilians and military families through music.

With Room 623 now on pause, Goldhaber reassessed both his priorities and the backlog of material he had continued writing throughout those years. In early 2025, he reached out to Hirahara to begin shaping the music, arriving with nearly 95 songs. Together, they met regularly, listening strategically and allowing the strongest material to emerge. “I needed to be able to just let it loose with someone I trust,” Goldhaber says. “He really held space for all of it.”

“Working with Marcus and our first-call bandmates, we strove to craft an album that showcases and frames his excellent songwriting with unique arrangements,” Hirahara says. “I believe we’ve made a top-notch record that will resonate with a wide swath of listeners.”

Recorded at The Bunker Studio in September, the record opens with “Skylark,” the Hoagy Carmichael–Johnny Mercer standard, its arrangement shaped by tension and release, with soprano saxophone suggesting the bird in flight. The original “Just One More Song” follows, reflecting the desire for a night with new love not to end, before “Let’s Get Lost,” written by Jimmy McHugh with lyrics by Frank Loesser, leans into escapism and desire, informed by Brazilian rhythms and the atmosphere of Carnival.

The title track marks a reflective pause, followed by the easy bounce of “Two at a Time,” whose clarinet lines establish a close, conversational feel. “Uptown Cabaret” provides a moment of collective lift, echoing the spirit of Room 623, before the enveloping original ballad “You Will Be Loved.”

“I’ll See You in My Dreams,” follows, composed by Isham

Jones with lyrics by Gus Kahn, along with a restrained reading of “I’ll Build a Stairway to Paradise,” by George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin, and Buddy DeSylva, and “There’s a Small Hotel,” by Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart. After the lovestruck, anticipatory rush that is the original “You Are A Love Song,” the album closes with a mesmerizing, slow-burning take on “The Best Is Yet to Come,” written by Cy Coleman with lyrics by Carolyn Leigh.

The Promise of You represents Goldhaber’s return to creating his own music — shaped by inspiration, practice, and patience, and years spent creating a musical space for others to thrive. The album was produced independently, with a portion of its fundraising supporting The Jazz Foundation of America. The album will be released via his in-house label, Fallen Apple Records.

The name is a nod to his mother and grandfather, who told him “the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree.” Growing up, I heard that quote around the house often — but I only really came to apply it later in life, as I reflected on my past,” Goldhaber shares. In my mid-twenties, as I embarked upon a new direction in my career, centered on the music I grew up with, I realized that I had become that fallen apple.” Today, he runs the label both as a tribute to his family and a platform to elevate like-minded artists.

He underscores something else. “It’s been a challenge to rebrand from being seen and known as ‘the Room 623 guy’ to being seen once again as a singer and songwriter first and foremost,” he says. “But it’s all rooted in the shared love and legacy of Harlem jazz that brought us together.”

This music may be part and parcel with Room 623 — but now, with The Promise of You, you can take that feeling with you wherever you go.



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