

BOSTON SINGER-SONGWRITER SUPPORTS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WITH BENEFIT SHOW AND NEW SONG

Linda Marks pairs her song “Sanctuary” with a benefit for nonprofits Casa Myrna and RESPOND Inc. at September performance

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Photo credit: Ellen Snyder / Download [here](#)

“...[a] longtime fixture on the Greater Boston music scene” - [The Boston Globe](#)

LAWRENCE – As Domestic Violence Awareness Month approaches this fall, Boston artist Linda Marks is using her music to raise spirits and support for abuse survivors across Massachusetts. One Broadway Collaborative will welcome Marks and her *Sanctuary* project at a September 15 benefit show for the local nonprofits Casa Myrna and RESPOND Inc. Both organizations help domestic abuse survivors secure refuge and a full recovery by providing free residential programs, legal advocacy, and counseling, among other resources.

The September benefit is the latest phase in the rollout of Marks’ *Sanctuary* project, a months-long effort that utilizes new music, live performances, and collaborations with nonprofits to raise awareness about domestic violence’s far-reaching – yet often close-to-home – impact. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. with a performance from Americana and folk-pop artist [Randie O’Neil](#), followed by a stroll through Marks’ heartwarming and piano-driven catalog.

“Creating benefit events to accompany ‘Sanctuary’ is an important way of inviting members of the community to join in the mission behind the song,” Marks says. “Both attending a show, either in person or virtually, and contributing funds to support the nonprofits whose work directly helps domestic abuse survivors and their families, is a very personal and local way to be part of a global effort.”

Marks’ *Sanctuary* project began in June with a [music video release](#) for her song “Sanctuary,” an uplifting embrace for those breaking free from a cycle of abuse. On August 23, Marks releases the song’s global recording, which interweaves the talents of artists from around the world to form a unifying message of tenderness. Layered together, the global version of “Sanctuary” is a collage of empathy and encouragement, shaped by the creativity of musicians from Greece, Israel, India, Germany, and the United States.

“I grew up in a household where domestic violence cast a dark shadow,” Marks shares. “My mother told me to keep the shades down so the neighbors would not know what was going on. As a child, I wanted to break the secrecy and find help. But I did not know where to turn.”

Reflecting on the experience decades later, the *Sanctuary* project is Marks’ tender response to the issue, and a soaring endorsement of a world where abuse survivors do not feel confined to the shadows.

The *Sanctuary* project rollout will continue this fall, with two events planned for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October: a live-streamed performance of “Sanctuary” on **October 1** and a performance at the Fall Festival organized by REACH Beyond Domestic Violence on **October 5** in Waltham.

About Linda Marks

Linda Marks is a multi-award-winning Boston singer-songwriter, a healer at heart, and emotional alchemist whose music gracefully uplifts the spirit and transforms sorrow into gold. Currently preparing her 15th album, Marks is as prolific as she is mindful, using her music to touch upon the current events and issues shaping our reality. Her past releases have been featured in *The Boston Globe*, *Boston Magazine*, and *NPR*, among other outlets.

Throughout her decades-spanning discography, Marks’ elegant voice and piano always tug at listeners’ heartstrings and inspire optimism. She released her 14th studio album *A Recipe For Hope* in January of 2024, which debuted at No.18 on the Roots Music Report Alternative Folk Chart. *A Recipe For Hope* also won the Clouzine International Music Award for “Best Folk Album,” received a Bronze Medal for both Best Album and Best Folk Album in the Global Music Awards, and produced two charting songs: “September Morn,” which appeared on the Cashbox Top 100, and “Love Always Wins,” which reached No. 1 on the UK Hot 100. “Love Always Wins” recently was named a Finalist in the Great American Song Contest and won the award for “Best Collaboration” at the World Songwriter Awards. Marks is a Finalist in five categories for the 2024 ISSA Awards, and is nominated for a 2024 Josie Music Award as well. Her newest song, written to heal the epidemic of antisemitism, was just selected as a semifinalist in the UK Songwriting Competition.

Building community through music has been a lifelong pursuit for Marks, who has written songs for numerous nonprofit organizations and community causes, such as Upstage Lung Cancer, the Buddy Dog Humane Society, the Cotta Blue Project, and Light Up the Love. She's also collaborated with saxophonist Willie Sordillo and singer-songwriter Kemp Harris on *Songs At The Heart Of Our Times*, performing timely music at benefit concerts for local non-profits. Most recently, Marks is the curator of the "Sanctuary" project, tapping a global network of musicians to craft a song that supports – and includes the words of – domestic violence survivors.

Marks is the co-founder of Women In Music Gathering, the leader of the International Singer-Songwriter Association Boston/Northeast Chapter, and a Big Records artist. She also is a member of the Recording Academy, the Northeast Regional Folk Alliance, and Folk Alliance International.



Representatives from Casa Myrna and RESPOND Inc. join Marks onstage at The Burren for the "Sanctuary" music video release in June / Photo credit: Ellen Snyder

"Sanctuary" global recording artists:

Adina Feldman, Israel – Vocals

Amy McAllister, United States – Vocals

Charu Suri, India – Piano

Linda Marks, United States – Vocals

Noshir Mody, India – Guitar

Christian Fabian, Germany – Bass

Dimitris Nezis, Greece – Vocals

Willie Sordillo, United States – Saxophone

Mixed and mastered by Lonnie Park with Nate Horton at Barncastle Studio in Ithaca, New York.

Upcoming performances and appearances

August 24: ISSA Awards Ceremony, Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center, Sandy Springs, GA

September 15: Casa Myrna and RESPOND Inc. benefit show at One Broadway Collaborative in Lawrence, MA

October 5: Domestic Violence Awareness Month Fall Festival Performance, REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc, Waltham, MA

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