

# KAIA KATER

## NINE PIN - RELEASE DATE MAY 13

The new album from young African-Canadian roots phenom Kaia Kater couldn't come at a better time. As a new generation takes the reins, music is needed more than ever to remind us of the troubled pathways of our own history. Born of African-Caribbean descent in Québec, Kaia Kater grew up between two worlds: one her deep ties to Canadian folk music in her Toronto home; the other the years she spent learning and studying Appalachian music in West Virginia. Her acclaimed debut album touched on this divide, but her new album, **Nine Pin**, delves even further, and casts an unflinching eye at the realities faced by people of colour in North America every day.

Her songs on the new album are fueled by her rich low tenor vocals, jazz-influenced instrumentation, and beautifully understated banjo, and they've got as much in common with Kendrick Lamar right now as they do with Pete Seeger.



**Nine Pin** is already garnering critical acclaim, having received praise from outlets such as *Rolling Stone*, *CBC Music* and *The Roots Music Report*. Recorded in just one day in Toronto, **Nine Pin** was produced by both Kater and acclaimed Canadian artist **Chris Bartos** (The Barr Brothers, Jonathan Byrd), who also produced her last album, *Sorrow Bound* (2014). Few artists could pull off such a polished, cohesive album in one day, but Kater felt that this actually lent focus to the project. As a concept album, **Nine Pin** weaves between hard-hitting songs that touch on modern issues like the Black Lives Matter movement ("Rising Down," "Paradise Fell") and more personal narratives speaking to life and love in the digital age ("Saint Elizabeth"). And while these larger stories are deftly crafted, this is really an album of moments. Kater's a cappella voice speaking to the loneliness of a city in "Harlem's Little Blackbird" while solo dance steps echo in the background, the muted hesitancy of Caleb Hamilton's trumpet breaking the trance of "Little Pink," the smoke of electric guitar that cuts through "Saint Elizabeth," the wave-like ebb and flow of piano behind the plaintive love poem "Viper's Nest..." All of these moments point to an artist wise beyond her years.

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### TRACK LIST, **focus tracks**

1. **Saint Elizabeth** - Kaia Kater 4:00
2. Little Pink - Traditional Arr. Kaia Kater 4:02
3. **Paradise Fell** - Kaia Kater 4:38
4. **Rising Down** - Kaia Kater 4:47
5. Harlem's Little Blackbird - Kaia Kater 4:07
6. Past 0:49
7. **Nine Pin** - Kaia Kater 5:08
8. Fine Times at Our House - Traditional Arr. Kaia Kater 2:19
9. Passing 0:44
10. Viper's Nest - Kaia Kater 4:57
11. White - Traditional Arr. Kaia Kater, Emily Miller 3:35
12. Harvest and the Plough - Kaia Kater 4:16
13. Ti Chagrin - Julia Kater 3:11
14. To Come 0:53
15. Hangman's Reel - Traditional Arr. Kaia Kater 2:26

Genres: folk, americana, jazz, old-time

Produced by Chris Bartos  
Recorded at Canterbury Studios, Toronto, ON