



Beloved NYC Vocalist Morley Releases Today A New Studio Album

Co-Produced With Chris Bruce Featuring Contributions From Meshell Ndegeocello, Shara Nova (a.k.a. My Brightest Diamond), Toumani Diabaté, Jon Cowherd, Arun & Trina Ramamurthy, and More!

Follow The Sound

(Release Date: September 27, 2024)

“Morley embodies modern-day NY femininity in all its multicultural finesse.” –**Ann Powers, NPR**

“Ah, the joy of discovery — of finding that new rocker, that voice you’ve never heard, or of rediscovering an old favorite, back and in time form...Somewhere between Sade and Portishead, there’s Morley.” –**TIME**

New York, NY — Friday, September 27, 2024 — New York City-born/raised singer **Morley** lives and breathes the pulse of the city with her luminous voice taking center stage on her renowned catalog of recordings. Today (September 27, 2024), Morley shares the next chapter in an acclaimed career with the release of a new full-length studio album, ***Follow The Sound***, co-produced with **Chris Bruce** (producer of **Lizz Wright’s *Shadow*** and **Meshell Ndegeocello’s** sophomore **Blue Note Records** album, ***No More Water: The Gospel of James Baldwin***). *Follow The Sound* has contributions from **Meshell Ndegeocello** (bass), **Shara Nova a.k.a. My Brightest Diamond** (vocals), **Toumani Diabaté** (kora), **Jon Cowherd** (piano), **Chris Bruce** (guitar, bass), **Arun & Trina Ramamurthy** (violins), **Jack DeBoe**, **Jay Bellerose** and **Abe Rounds** (drums), and **Cole Kamen** (trumpet). Four singles “It’s Hard To Stop” (VIEW VIDEO (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZiu6vPMogA>)), “Follow The Sound” (VIEW VIDEO (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5eDkOcMavo>)), “Here In Love,” and “Where Are We” have been released leading up to the full album drop of *Follow The Sound*.

Morley's lauded career continues to unfold with the release of her latest stunning recording, *Follow The Sound*, as she invites fans into her world alongside her husband and rising music producer **Chris Bruce**. Morley opens *Follow The Sound* with its title track juxtaposing her humanitarian work with a spirited call to trust one's own intuition. Morley's transcending voice intermingles with Bruce's acoustic fingerstyle guitar work as pianist Jon Cowherd joins the otherworldly energy along with bassist Meshell Ndegeocello and drummer Jack DeBoe.

"Star Seeds" is a collaboration with Malian kora master, **Toumani Diabaté**, and is Morley's tender invitation to us to "let the world back in" to take a dive into our imaginations, and feel our collective belonging to this life. "Where Are We" brings into the chorus a traditional hymn from Nigeria, West Africa, sung by Morley and her band in the Yoruba language. The lyrics translate to "giving thanks to the most high," which she learned from her mentor and godfather, **Babatunde Olatunji**. "Come Catch Your Breath With Me" is an open door to feel what we feel, even if it's too much or if it's nothing with "so much banking on our turning away," and allowing us to breathe. "Who Is The One Love" shines with intimate longing that blossoms into triumph.

A **Minnie Riperton** cover, Morley sings "Les Fleurs" with as much hope as the song summons. "Here In Love" carries a sensual message of gratitude, "the world is on fire, so let's fall in love. Morley and Chris Bruce share a standout duo performance on "It's Hard To Stop" with the **Empire State Building** peering through the windows (VIEW VIDEO (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZiu6vPMogA>)). Composing the song in their apartment on the Upper West Side of Manhattan (a mere few blocks down the street from the studio where they shot the video), "It's Hard To Stop" is a reflection on the tenderness of the human condition.

A note to herself, "Gave You" is inspired by a wind scientist's discovery that the pitch of the wind is determined by the length of pine through which it travels. "Gather" acknowledges grief and separation while respecting the union in the heart that stays in tact even after loss. "Jealous of God" speaks to the loneliness of envy that **Morley** says, "I believe drives hatred in all its forms." It encourages to turn that hatred into love and "come join the band" cause "we're not here for ourselves by ourselves anyway." *Follow The Sound* concludes with the improvised love song "Lucky," which she admits "is a little naughty too."

See Morley and Chris Bruce live in concert on the East Coast and West Coast in select markets this October 2024. For a list of forthcoming tour dates, please visit: morleymusic.org (<http://morleymusic.org/>)

About Morley:

Morley weaves the threads of jazz, soul, and folk traditions into a singular tapestry of vocal and acoustic splendor — the sound wave of a life lived with steadfast devotion to human rights and environmental justice. Her take on Americana music embraces a uniquely metropolitan state of mind born out of her New York City upbringing. First a student at the **United Nations International School** (Parkway Village, Jamaica Queens), she later attended

the **Duke Ellington High School for the Performing**

Arts (Washington, D.C.) During her teenage years in D.C, Morley found refuge in the homes of an international community of friends. Her experience of living within a wide range of cultures — from Korean, Polish, Nigerian, and more — shaped her world view, lyrical content, and sound.

Morley went on to receive full scholarship to the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Center** and began choreography before becoming a fulltime musician. Her original piece, ***Mother Nature***, became part of the student repertoire for **Alvin Ailey's Techniques and Performance** touring **Ensemble**, that led to her choreography with legendary drummer **Max Roach** for the 30th Anniversary of his album, ***We Insist!*** (featuring percussion and human rights icon **Babatunde Olatunji**), forming an impressionable lifelong journey with music as well as mentorship from Babatunde Olatunji. Over the course of releasing seven studio albums, Morley's traveled the world singing with and for visionaries on the frontiers of social change, moving minds and spirits as diverse as **His Holiness The Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela**, and entrepreneur **Richard Branson's** global solutions gatherings, **Virgin Unite**. Morley uses music as a tool for trauma healing when working with survivors of human trafficking, war, and those affected by the perils of climate change. Morley spearheaded the 2019 release of the benefit album, ***Borderless Lullabies***, which continues to raise funds for **K-I-N-D (Kids In Need Of Defense)** — Morley is one of the featured artists along with **Yo-Yo Ma, Esperanza Spalding, Meryl Streep, Rosanne Cash**, among others.

Morley has garnered an array of accolades including awards from ***The New York Times*** and **ASCAP**, as well as being a featured performer and speaker at TED Women and TED X. Her original song "Sea of Oms" has hit over 8 million streams on Spotify (<https://open.spotify.com/track/41tdpS2YkE7g7nhc0e5G0J>), and her songs have also appeared on network television shows such as ***Days of Our Lives, General Hospital, Dawson's Creek***, and ***Felicity***. As a lyricist, Morley has contributed to albums for artists including **Lizz Wright, Mocean Worker, Youn Sun Nah, Richard Bona, William Parker, Osunlade**, and **Yuri Buenaventura**. Her singing and speaking voice was featured in **Ralph Lauren's My Romance** fragrance campaigns from 2007-2011. Morley and Chris Bruce (with various guest artists) also released a global children's album, ***Story Of The Sky***, under the name, "The Bruces," in 2023.

For more information on Morley, please visit:

Website (<https://www.morleymusic.org/>) | Spotify (<https://open.spotify.com/artist/2Ddv1NqTE2U5QjbC1xODJj>)

Media Contact: Jesse P. Cutler, JP Cutler Media,
415.318.9663, jesse@jpcutlermedia.com
(<mailto:jesse@jpcutlermedia.com>)

