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NOVEMBER 19, 2006

Jeanne Newhall - Wild Blue



The vast musical roots of well-respected composer and sophisticated vocalist Jeanne Newhall have impacted jazz and new age music since the late '80s. She has a credibility that stems from her back catalogue of thirteen CD's and her 2001 single, 'Race Through The Clouds' that features guitarist Peter White. Equally at home in the studio or on the live stage Jeanne has toured far and wide across the USA and Europe. Originally from Phoenix AZ she now bases herself in Los Angeles where, as well as being actively involved in compositions for film and television, she has just released her latest album 'Wild Blue'. Running the gamut from sophisticated contemporary vocal jazz through pop, country and evocative folk it's a collection that for the most part is music on the mellow side but which at times injects emotion that is off the scale.

Seven self penned tracks are sandwiched between two remarkable interpretations of modern classics and the first of these 'Hungry Heart' serves as an introduction to Newhall's delicate vocal skills, her melodic piano and a tight group of backing musicians,. Against all odds this amalgam of 'Springsteen meets Joni Mitchell' works beautifully and with Mike Miller playing guitars, Matt McKenzie on bass and John Robinson on drums the project is anchored in acoustic splendor. This ensemble remains consistent throughout and at times is subtly added to with dramatic effect. The cello, with its ability to tug at the heartstrings like no other, is the most melancholy of instruments and here comes courtesy of Stephanie Fife. It lights up the wonderful 'Ancient' and brings to mind some of Harry Chapin's best music while on 'Still', with its ripping melodies and Newhall's crystal clear tones, Fife returns to add that special something. In the same vein is the stunning 'Ev'rything But The Sun' and with the gentle folk - rock inspired 'This Kind Of Life' the wild Gaelic violin of Charlie Basharat evokes something of a Ronnie Lane vibe.

The title track is also stitched with the threads of folksy country. It retains all the attributes of Newhall's vocal clarity while managing to sound like something from the Van Morrison song book. Jeanne keeps it mellow for 'Red Sky'. This one has a hypnotic yet gentle melody but elsewhere on the album Newhall shows she can up the tempo too. 'Fallin' Into You' is built around an excellent contemporary jazz vibe and a contender for best track is 'The Real Story'. Jaared Arosemena, a regular with Peter Whites touring band, takes the honors on sax and Newhall's vocals sound both sexy and jazzy. It's a super mid tempo track with a melody just out of this world.

'Wild Blue' is as diverse as it is excellent and this is epitomized by Newhall's sensitive handling of the massive jazz standard 'These Foolish Things'. It provides a fitting end to an album that has something for everyone who appreciates good music and promises to boost the already acclaimed career of Jeanne Newhall.

For more go to www.jeannenewhall.com

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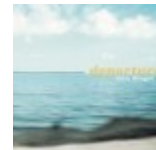
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