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Jazz CD Reviews – February 2014

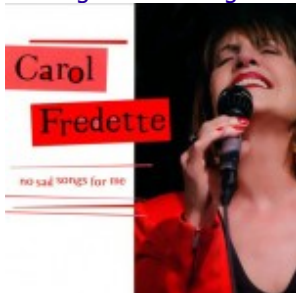
February 28, 2014

Carol Fredette – No Sad Songs For Me (Soundbrush SR 1028)

Singing from early childhood, [Carol Fredette](#) also studied piano and by her teenage years had shaken off an earlier inclination towards classical music and sang with the bands of Larry Elgart and Neal Hefti. Carol attracted the attention of leading jazz instrumentalists, not least Stan Getz, who remarked of her: 'She's as good as they come.' Another early musical meeting was with pianist Steve Kuhn and they evolved an enduring musical partnership. Among her albums are 1990's ***In The Shadows***, for Owl Records, 1999's



Everything I Need, a Brownstone Records release that had Carol singing the songs of Dave Frishberg and Bob Dorough, and 2009's Soundbrush Records notable ***Everything In Time***. There are other releases, but not all that many, which is a sad reflection on a recording industry that should know better. Fortunately, Soundbrush has now released this new set, ***No Sad Songs For Me***, on which Carol brings her lovely vocal sound, rich and creamy, to a delightful selection of songs loosely linked by feelings of lost love. Among these are *You'd Better Love Me*, *Dancing In The Dark*, *Long Ago And Far Away*, *You Better Go Now* and *To Love And Be Loved*. Yet, as the album title indicates, Carol does not approach the theme negatively; rather, she highlights the message of the song with which she closes the album: *No Regrets*.



Appearing with Carol here are the pianists Andy Ezrin, Helio Alves and Dario Eskenazi, as well as bassist David Finck (who also contributes the album's title song) and drummer Kevin Winard as well as a selection of adept horn players: trumpeter Tony Kadleck, trombonist Michael Davis, saxophonist David Mann, guitarist Bob Mann. Interpreting the lyrics with graceful skill, Carol vividly demonstrates her exceptional ability and shows throughout that those long ago accolades remain just as valid today.

Barbara Levy Daniels – Love Lost And Found (Bldproductions Inc)

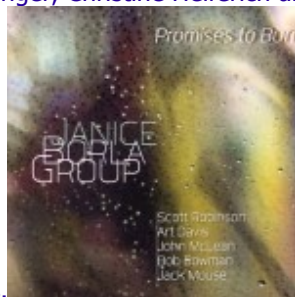
Some years ago, a young singer named Barbara Lyons was heard by Ray Charles who garlanded her with praise and urged the record company for whom she was auditioning. But Barbara was only 12 years old and a different path was taken. This path was career in psychotherapy that ran for three decades but Barbara never lost touch with her early love for singing and the next 15 years found her bringing her underused musical talent to the fore. A couple of albums came along, but were not as widely heard as they clearly deserved to be and it is a delight to hear her again on this new set, ***Love Lost And Found***, released by herself. On this set Barbara sings a selection of standards, delivering smoothly performed, always interesting, and genuinely moving interpretations of songs such as *My Heart Stood Still*, *It's The Talk of The Town*, *The Nearness Of You*, *For All We Know* and *It Could Happen To You*.



Barbara's accompanists here are John DiMartino, piano, Paul Meyers, guitar, Boris Koslov, bass, Shinnosuke Takahashi, and the fine trumpeter Warren Vaché. While this singer might be a new name to many worldwide, the maturity of sound and skill should bring a lot of pleasure to those who like to hear good songs sung well.

Janice Borla – Promises To Burn (Tall Grass TG8281)

During the past couple of decades, when singers by the score released CDs with often startling frequency, [Janice Borla](#) tended to buck the trend and released far too few album. Fortunately for all lovers of good and distinctive jazz singing, matters have improved in recent years with ***From Every Angle***, ***Agents of Change***, ***Lunar Octave***, and now ***Promises To Burn***. A glance at the composers of the songs on this latest album gives a clear indication of where Janice's priorities lie. Bill Evans is represented by *Funkallero*, Lennie Tristano by *Lennie's Pennies*, Tadd Dameron by *If You Could See Me Now*. And although Janice gives an intriguing twist to standards such as *You Don't Know What Love Is* (Don Raye and Gene DePaul) and *Some Other Time* (Leonard Bernstein and Betty Comden and Adolph Green), she is clearly most at home in a jazz mood, adding Jack DeJohnette's *Silver Hollow*, Joey Calderazzo's *Midnight Voyage* and Bob Mintzer's *RunFerYerLife*. Janice's interpretation of the lyrics of those already named as well as Karen Gallinger, Christine Helferich and Carl Sigman, vividly demonstrates not only her skill and understanding but also her respect for



the writers.

Accompanied by three regular musical associates, trumpeter Art Davis, bassist Bob Bowman and drummer Jack Mouse, along with tenor saxophonist Scott Robinson and guitarist John McLean, Janice makes clear with her full, rich vocal sound and her superb musicianship that jazz singing is in more than capable hands.

Beata Pater – Golden Lady – (B&B Records BB 0419)

Unlike her three most recent albums, ***Black***, ***Blue*** and ***Red***, here [Beata Pater](#) sings with minimal accompaniment, just piano and bass, and the result is a delicately imaginative reworking of a nicely varied selection of songs. On those previous albums, as well as others that have been appearing since the early 1990s, Beata demonstrated her comprehensive musical skills. Trained as a violinist at Warsaw's Music Academy, she came to the USA from Poland with an established following, not only in her native Poland but also in Japan, where she spent a valuable decade as a session singer, club performer and also fronted her own groups.

Among the well-known but by no means overdone songs reinvented here are *Wild Is The Wind*, *Save Your Love For Me*, *Golden Lady*,

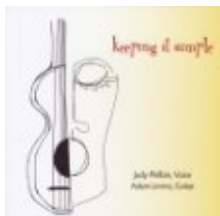
This Is All I Ask and *Someone To Light Up My Life*. There are also several less well-known songs that are especially suited to the singer's thoughtful understanding, including Maya Angelou's *Turned To Blue* and Oscar Castro-Neves's *I Live To Love You*.



Beata sings all of these songs, familiar and neglected, in her soft, gentle and persuasive voice, a vocal sound that is flexible and constantly finds the subtleties of the lyricists' intentions and the composers' melodic charms. Beata's accompanists here are pianist Hironu Aoki and her longtime musical associate, bassist Buca Necak, both of whom add immeasurably to the many delights of this set.

Judy Philbin – Keeping It Simple (own release)

The album title tells you what to expect and it delivers. Yet for all its simplicity in presentation, the skills of this delightful duo are vividly evident from the first bars. [Judy Philbin](#) is an experienced singer, well known in California, and has a classical background, studying voice, trumpet, piano and guitar, but has chosen to express herself in jazz and superior popular song. She is linked here with [Adam Levine](#), an exceptional guitarist whose background includes studies at Berklee and with Joe Pass before he went on to form Human Nation.



As well as jazz and popular standards, such as *Moonglow*, *Skylark* and *The Nearness Of You*, the music chosen by Judy and Adam includes Latin touches, *Bésame Mucho*, and some pleasing originals of their own. Throughout this set, Judy's warm vocal sound blends beautifully with Adam's fluid instrumental work.

Lisa Ferraro – Serenading The Moon – (Pranavasonic Universal PVS 1724)

Storytelling in song is clearly [Lisa Ferraro's](#) forte and here she performs a delightful set of mainly standards, interpreting the lyrics with understanding and finding an appropriately jazzy groove for the melodic and rhythmic qualities of the songs she sings. Her accompanists are New York stalwarts John Di Martino, piano, James Chirillo, guitar, Ray Drummond, bass, and Lewis Nash, drums. The session is produced by Houston Person and he also plays tenor saxophone, accompanying Lisa in the manner that has been an ongoing joy for music lovers for many years. Houston plays with skill and subtlety, unerringly finding an earthy grace that lifts the musicians who surround him. The songs Lisa has chosen for this set include *I Wished On The Moon* (Ralph Rainger & Dorothy Parker), *I'm Just A Lucky So And So* (Duke Ellington & Mack David), *How Little We Know* (Carolyn Leigh & Phil Springer), and *Skylark*



(Hoagy Carmichael & Johnny Mercer).

To all the songs presented here, Lisa brings touches that will appeal to many, her strong yet liquid vocal sound being ideally suited to her material. This is Lisa's tenth album, yet I have to confess that this is the first I have heard. My loss, and something I shall take immediate steps to correct.

As always. these albums can be found at [Amazon](#).

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[A Soldier's Story](#)

February 14, 2014

Oath Of Allegiance

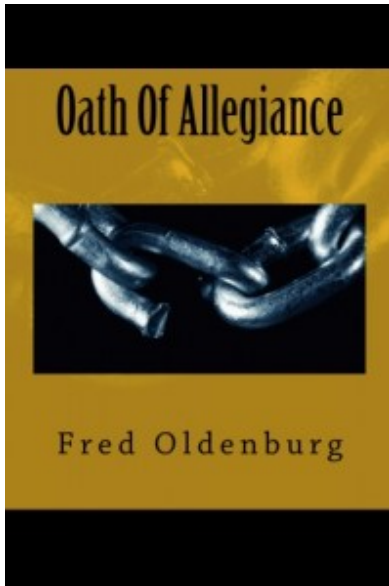
by

Fred Oldenburg

For those of us who have only a journalist's (or, heaven help us, a politician's) view of the life of a front-line soldier in today's world, this memoir is a revelation that makes fascinating and at times uncomfortable reading. Fred Oldenburg has spent the last quarter century as an Infantryman in the British Army. Here, he sets out the reality of training for and serving in some of the world's most dangerous places.

Stretched to the limits by four tours of Northern Ireland, two in Iraq, and one in Afghanistan, he unsparingly recounts the often riotous way in which he and his fellow soldiers spent time away from daily confrontation with violence.

As for the regions our journalists and politicians glibly describe as trouble spots, this Infantryman vividly depicts the harsh front-line truth about places and people and sudden bloody death.



ISBN – 13: 978-1495375262 & 10: 1495375269

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