

Mp3 Cathi Walkup - Playing Favorites!



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By turns wickedly funny ("Tanya's Wicked Body") or sweetly wistful ("Flying") Cathi Walkup's smokey contralto weaves a spell with bebop, samba and ballads. 14 MP3 Songs JAZZ: Jazz Vocals, EASY LISTENING: Cabaret Details: Cathi's original song "Hang Up and Drive" was recently featured on Car Talk, the wonderful NPR car show - check out the clip! Nationally acclaimed jazz vocalist Cathi Walkup was born in St. Louis, Missouri. Cathi's earliest memory of singing was being taken to church by her Grandmother and hearing the music there, she says "for the longest time, I thought that's what church was - music and singing". And while it may have been church that brought her to music, it was actually pinball which brought her to jazz. "It's true" she says, "I was a pinball addict and played at a small cafe in San Francisco in the Mission District, the Cafe Babar. The owner, Alvin, stocked the jukebox with his own private collection and he was a serious jazz fanatic. My friends and I would listen to jazz for hours as we played. We played 'Moody's Mood for Love' over and over. I had heard many of the songs from my parents records growing up, but really started appreciating the depth of the music. Although it was the singing of Lambert, Hendricks and Ross that really got me to understand some of the horn phrasing." Known for her wit and easy manner onstage she has had the pleasure of working with Grover Washington, Jr., who warmly praised her singing, and predicted, "I'll be hearing more from you." Cathi has studied piano with Mark Levine and Alan Copeland and theory with Jim Grantham. An accomplished lyricist and composer, her songs have been performed by artists on both Coasts. Reese Erlich of "Jazz Perspectives" (Contra Costa Times) has said "Her lyric writing is fresh and inventive, combining elements of 40's style with 90's angst." She has produced three of her own CDs, and is the force behind the production of two compilation CDs that feature Cathi and other Bay Area artists. Since 2000 she has been touring the U.S., and beginning in 2003, will will also take her music to Europe. Cathi's albums have

been heard on more than 90 radio stations in the U.S. and abroad and have received favorable notices in Germany, the Netherlands, Brazil, South Africa and Italy. Living in a Daydream, Cathi's second release, was featured on KCSM (San Mateo, CA) radio Noontime Concert Series. It has three times won the Listener's Poll on Canada's SkyJazz Radio. In 2001, her first compilation album "Quint-Essential" was short listed on the Grammy ballot for best vocal jazz album of the year. WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING: "Here are mostly unusual, offbeat songs; the sort of stuff that lyricists use for telling unusual, offbeat stories. Like Dorrough, Frishberg and Blossom Dearie, Ms. Walkup has mastered the lilt to enable her to tilt at this rich tapestry we are pleased to call life. The lady's voice is of the intimate variety and of an obvious jazz pedigree, she works so well with the musicians, all of which perform delightfully, with not a little hip inspiration of their own. She sounds a bit like Anita O'Day, here and there, with that laconic, throwaway casualness that tells of one who has learned the meaning and usefulness of laughing at life. On the other hand, "This Time The Dream's On Me" reminds pretty obviously of an earlier Annie Ross. This is a CD that will stay with your reviewer for a long time, simply because Ms. Walkup shows a kind of "inner" essence that seems so utterly hip, so very much a Jazz thing. Other than a flight on "Anthropology" the lady is not one who bops 'til she drops. Recommended as a "personal" favourite." - Lawrence Brazier, Jazz Now Magazine "Cathi Walkup casts an enchanting spell with her new live CD, "Playing Favorites." With a low and easy delivery and an inspired set of songs - some familiar and others from off-the-beaten track, the vocalist conjures up a world lush in ambience and rich in character. "Playing Favorites" is loaded with atmosphere. Floating between notes, listeners can almost taste the cool warmth of a strong drink or smell the faint scent of a stranger's cigarette. The 14-song recording captures Walkup's August 2002 shows at the Plush Room, a favorite San Francisco spot for jazz and cabaret. She is supported by David Udolf on piano; Jim Zimmerman, drums; Brad Buethe, guitar; John Wiitala, bass; and Dmitri Matheny, flugelhorn. Much like Bette Midler has done on many of her recordings, Walkup mixes it up with different styles and a touch of humor. She even performs "In These Shoes?," a song Midler featured on her last CD. Also included are the bossa nova "Tanya's Wicked Body" and the sunny "Down Here on the Ground" from the film "Cool Hand Luke." Walkup tackles tougher material with Billy Strayhorn's "The Last Light of Evening (Blood Count)" and the Gillespie-Parker classic "Anthropology." Throughout the CD, Walkup's smooth alto stays in the mid-range, and she accentuates her ability to keep a song gently swinging. "Playing Favorites" is recommended." Donna Kimura - Jazzreview.com

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