

JAZZ DISC REVIEWS

Laura Ainsworth's three studio albums

Jazz Japan v. 117 (April 23, 2020), p. 47

Keep It to Yourself

The debut album from a Dallas native who chose to become a retro jazz singer after having a career as an actress



This album's title conjures an image of inviting the listener into an intimate atmosphere of music. Track 4 ("Dream a Little Dream of Me") and Track 7 ("La Vie en Rose") are covers of well-known songs that are given nostalgic treatments. The basis of her musical approach is to find and revitalize good obscure songs, and she does this with Track 2 ("While the Music Plays On"), an emotional story of lost love written by Irving Mills, as well as with Track 8 ("That's the Kind of Guy I Dream Of"), a premiere novelty song that was rearranged in a cheerful big band style. This excellent and ambitious standards album also includes some more contemporary songs, such as Track 1 ("Keep It to Yourself"),

originally by Amy Rigby, and Track 12 ("Fantastic Planet of Love"), originally by Marshall Crenshaw. (Sugita)

- ①Keep It To Yourself ②While the Music Plays On ③April Fooled Me ④Dream A Little Dream Of Me ⑤He's So Unusual ⑥Midnight Sun ⑦La Vie En Rose ⑧That's The Kind of Guy I Dream Of ⑨Love For Sale ⑩Personality ⑪Skylark ⑫Fantastic Planet of Love
- Laura Ainsworth (vo) Chris McGuire (ts, cl) Brian Piper (key, b-vo) Noel Johnson (g) Chris DeRose (⑪:g) John Adams (b) Steve Barnes (ds, per) John Adams (b) Mike Drake (ds) Milo Deering (vln) © © 2011
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Necessary Evil

Released two years after her debut, Laura Ainsworth's second album further clarified both her characterizations and her direction as a singer



Laura is fascinated with 1940s film noir, and utilized aspects of this film genre in her music. She performs both "femme fatale" and "jilted lover" characterizations, and expresses many shades of love and twists of fate on this album. Track 1 ("Necessary Evil"), which is well known for the duet version by Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong, is arranged here with a big band sound. She put out a call to songwriters for demonstration recordings of new songs, and picked Track 5 ("Love Is a Dangerous Thing") and Track 12 ("Last Train to Mercerville"), which are both written by Lee Charles Kelley and are reminiscent of Cole Porter and Johnny

Mercer. The choices of songs result in an album concept that is similar to the previous release. Her touching vocalizations complimented by violin on Track 6 ("My Foolish Heart") are impressive. (Sugita)

- ① Necessary Evil ② One More Time ③ The Gentleman Is A Dope ④ Just Give Me a Man ⑤ Love Is a Dangerous Thing ⑥ My Foolish Heart ⑦ The Lies of Handsome Men ⑧ Get Out And Get Under the Moon ⑨ Out Of This World ⑩ Hooray For Love ⑪ I'd Give a Dollar For a Dime ⑫ Last Train to Mercerville
- Laura Ainsworth (vo) Chris McGuire (ts, cl) Peter Brewer (bs, ⑨:fl) Brian Piper (key) John Adams (b) Steve Barnes (ds, per) Steven Story (⑥: vln) +big band horns (①⑫)
- © © 2013
- Eclectus Records ER-1002

New Vintage

Her third album is dedicated to her father, a saxophonist who played with Ella Fitzgerald and Tony Bennett, and led her to become a jazz vocalist

With this album, Laura thought it was time to establish a definition of what she was doing, and also position her work as part of the forefront of the Vintage Movement in the US and UK. The phrase "New Vintage" reflects the musical style which she has carried out since her debut, and is utilized as the album's title. She selected songs such as Track 1 ("That's How I Got My Start"), which was originally recorded by Bea Wain; Track 3 ("Where Did the Magic Go?"), which has a supporting music video and references her father Billy Ainsworth in the lyrics; Track 12 ("Long Ago And Far Away" / "You Stepped out of a Dream"), a song medley with no previous precedent that was her own creation and inspired by Rita Hayworth and Sérgio Mendes; and Track 13 ("I Once Knew A Woman [Fella]"), which switches the originally male-sung lyrics to a



woman's perspective, thereby giving the song a modern, playful attitude. She won four AMG Heritage Awards for this album. (Sugita)

■ ① That's How I Got My Start ② I'll Take Romance
③ Where Did The Magic Go? ④ An Occasional Man
⑤ Wasting My Love On You ⑥ Nevertheless (I'm In
Love With You) ⑦ A Little Jive Is Good For You ⑧ The
Man I Love Is Gone ⑨ All About You ⑩ Nothing Can
Replace A Man ⑪ It's a Nuisance Having You
⑫ Around Long Ago And Far Away / You Stepped Out Of
A Dream ⑬ I Once Knew A Woman ("Fella")

■ Laura Ainsworth (vo) Rodney Booth (tp) Chris McGuire (ts, cl) Peter Brewer (fl) Dana
Sudborough (vib) Brian Piper (key, ⑦:vo) John Adams (b) Steve Barnes (ds, per) © 2017

■ Eclectus Records ER-1003

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