

QUOTES

Ellen Robinson

"Ellen Robinson is blessed with great pipes."

Jazz Improv Magazine

"The urgency with which she delivers each tune is palpable. Her enthusiasm and love of the music is infectious. Her willingness to bare her soul through each song is courageous. We become privy to her journey...a ride through the joy, the pain, the celebration of life. It's all here."

Melanie Berzon, KCSM

"Hers is a white chocolate sound, intense and pure, swinging and bitter-sweet. Keep your ears and eyes open for more Ellen Robinson."

Carol Sloane – jazz vocalist

"The musicianship of her group, her repertoire, the arrangements, and her delivery places her in a pantheon of the very best performers we've had here."

Norman Landsberg, Piedmont Piano Company, Oakland, CA

"To compare Ellen Robinson's vocal timbre to that of Irene Kral may be the ultimate compliment to Ms. Robinson. But there's a hint of Irene present here on some excellent material. Robinson is the kind of singer who could silence a jazz club in a hurry."

George Fendel, KMHD FM, Oregon

"Ellen Robinson knows how to connect with an audience...she just lets it fly, and what happens is a lovely melodic parade. This singer delivers from the heart. That's her forte...Robinson interprets lyrics in such a way that we feel them completely."

Jim Santella, All About Jazz

"Robinson makes music that people want to call their own."

Pacifica Tribune, Pacifica, CA

"Phenomenal vocals and well crafted songs."

Joe Kelley, WVOF, Fairfield, CT

"She's got the right ideas and the voice to make them happen."

Jerry Atkins, KTXK, Texarkana, TX

"Ellen Robinson swings like crazy!"

Billy Philadelphia - pianist

"Ellen Robinson is a welcome entre into the world of jazz voices."

Bruce Tater, KETR, Commerce, TX

"The Oakland jazz singer's new album *Don't Wait Too Long* arrives right on time, showcasing her impressive skills as a songwriter and her gift for putting a personal stamp on American Songbook standards and more contemporary fare."

Andy Gilbert, Bay Area jazz writer for San Jose Mercury News, Boston Globe and others

"She has a wonderful, clear voice and a jazz feeling all the way."

Marian McPartland

REVIEWS

Ellen Robinson

Don't Wait Too Long

Midwest Record

www.midwestrecord.com

Sept. 28, 2012

Simply a straight ahead, straight up live vocal session from a jazz singer that delivers it pure, not needing to drape on any extra special sauce to dilute the taste. A nice mix of standards and originals from various periods and writers that she manages to weave into a seamless whole, this is a real treat for the jazz vocal fan looking for a pro that can hold the core all by herself. Right in the pocket throughout.

Lee Hildebrand

Freelance music journalist

Oct. 17, 2012

Ellen Robinson's alto pipes glow like a lightning bug on a warm summer night as she sings the Lerner and Loewe standard "Almost Like Being in Love" on her third album, **Don't Wait Too Long**. Much like her predecessors Jimmy Scott and Shirley Horn, the Oakland jazz singer takes advantage of down-tempo from her slow, samba-infused backup quartet to penetrate the meanings of her material.

Robinson works wonders with Jule Styne's "Dance Only with Me," Michel LeGrand's "You Must Believe in Spring," Irving Berlin's "Be Careful, It's My Heart," Bob Telson's "Calling You," Burke and Van Heusen's "But Beautiful," and Joni Mitchell's musical arrangement of the 1895 Rudyard Kipling poem "If."

Ballads dominate the album, recorded last year at Freight & Salvage. The pace picks up from time to time, including on the swinging "Soon," one of three Robinson originals in the set. She and the band add a jazz-waltz groove to the bossa-nova-flavored Ruby and the Romantics' hit "Our Day Will Come" and treat the Madeleine Peyroux-penned title track as a sassy shuffle.

Pianist Murray Low supplies sensitive, richly voiced accompaniment throughout, while tenor saxophonist Kristen Strom's rhapsodic lines and gently biting tone brings Stan Getz to mind. Bassist Sam Bevan and drummer Dan Foltz complete the combo. (EMR Music)

REVIEWS cont'd

Brent Black

Jazz journalist: Criticaljazz.com

Oct. 5, 2012

Don't Wait Too Long is the third release from Bay Area vocalist Ellen Robinson and will be dropping on October 16th. This wonderful live set includes some eclectic numbers from Joni Mitchell, Michel LeGrand, and Irving Berlin as well as three Robinson originals that serve her well as both a prolific vocalist and lyricist.

While there is a tightly clustered pack of female jazz singers, there is all ways room for one more and Robinson fills the bill well. Robinson demonstrated an understanding that some "singers" simply either do not get or they spend an entire career struggling with connectivity. The connectivity is only heightened on this live set as the quartet playing with her seems to have the same understanding of what musical artistry is all about. Opening up with "Dance Only With Me" pianist Murray Low turns in a harmonically engaging solo to complement a somewhat melancholy version of the Jule Styne tune. The brushwork of drummer Dan Foltz and lyrical bassist Sam Bevan compliment Robinson's talent well. A slightly odd metered swing that is a Robinson original "Soon" could easily pass as a standard if one was not familiar with the set list here. Kristen Strom is the perfect counterpoint on tenor sax and rounds out a rock solid ensemble. The cover of Joni Mitchell's "If", which is actually a Rudyard Kipling poem, kicks off with bassist Sam Bevan and is an organic testament to what true vocal artistry is about.

Remaining true to the artistic sense of self especially in the more commercially oriented realm of vocal jazz is a difficult trick to pull off but Robinson is obviously comfortable with who she is and where she intends to go as an artist and this is half the battle in the music business today. Ellen Robinson marches to her own beat and places her own indelible stamp on some classic tunes that turn ***Don't Wait Too Long*** into a delightfully entertaining release.

John Shelton Ivany

Top 21

www.jsitop21.com

Nov. 25, 2012

Don't Wait Too Long is the third admirable album by Ellen Robinson and her matchless band. We are treated to live music, which I love, which epitomizes her mission – to put adults in touch with their inner selves. As Bruce Springsteen said: "She's all that heaven will allow."

REVIEWS cont'd

Paul Freeman

Writer/editor: Los Angeles Times Syndicate, Tribune Syndicate, New York Times Syndicate, San Francisco Chronicle's Sunday Datebook and Gavin Report
popcultureclassics.com
Dec. 10, 2012

This exceptional Bay Area-based jazz singer's third album, recorded live at Berkeley's Freight & Salvage, is beautifully beguiling. There's an unpretentious elegance to Robinson's voice and she displays a rare rapport with each lyric. There's completely credibility and honest feeling in every syllable. A fine band is equally warm and nuanced in its approach, under the expert guidance of producer Bud Spangler. Among the highlights are sensitive renditions of "Almost Like Being In Love," "Calling You," "But Beautiful" and "Be Careful It's My Heart," as well as a swinging "Our Day Will Come."