

Darby Dizard: Down for You - CD Reviews

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Ms. Dizard has been working the New York circuit for a while, now - and if you can make it there, well...yeah, it's the major league. Ms. Dizard has a confident, mature voice. No shrinking violet here, she and the band command one's attention from the first track - "Speak Low," a Latin-tinged version of the song originally written for the Broadway play "One Touch of Venus" by Kurt Weill, lyrics by Ogden Nash.

Yeah, that Ogden Nash. Geez, the stuff you learn doing this.

As I write this, I've already raved about Jane Monheit's turn on the Bergman/Bergman/Mendes classic "So Many Stars." And Ms. Dizard's version on this disc is memorable in its own way, because it slows the song down to a haunting ballad. Shiver-inducing stuff.

High marks for the band - I paid particular attention to Tony Romano on Guitar (maybe because my son is playing a lot of guitar lately), and to Patience Higgins fine turn on the nostalgic "The Music Goes Round and Round," which amusingly morphs from a scratchy old-sounding recording to the best-swinging track on the disc.

The original "Down For You," written with the band's piano guy, Chris Cherney, features a nice solo for him - and it stands up alongside the classics nicely, as does the other semi-original, Ms. Dizard's lyrics for John Carisi's "Israel."

The backing band is top-notch, in addition to everyone I've mentioned so far, Cyro Baptista is on percussion, Artie Dixon on drums, and Jim Cammack plays bass.

Worthy of the big room with the big speakers, these guys are worthy of any big room anywhere.

This appears to be a re-release; available now at Amazon and iTunes in its earlier, 2004 incarnation. From the label and the tracks, there appears to be no difference.

Oh - and bonus points for great cover art. Don't know what it cost, but it was worth it! It's what gets one noticed.

Highly recommended.

Doug Boynton