

Look No Further

Diane Hubka



Artist

Diane Hubka

Album

Look No Further

Rating

★★★★☆



Release Date

May 16, 2000

Recording Date

Aug 3, 1999, Aug 4, 1999

Label

Vsojaz

Time

53:18

Genre

Jazz

Styles

Post-Bop
Contemporary
Jazz

Review

by Dave Nathan

This is New York City based Diane Hubka's second album for The Netherlands' A-Records. Even more than on her first album, she avoids the classic standards favored by many contemporary singers. Instead the play list is dominated by "off-beat" songs, i.e., tunes that don't get that much recording attention even though composed by well-known writers like Richard Rodgers, Jobim and Jules Styne. This is risky, requiring a lot of confidence to pull it off. Hubka obviously has this confidence, because this is as entertaining an album as has hit the streets for quite a while with not a single bad track. "In Walked John," Malachi Thompson's lyrical tribute to John Coltrane, is one of the highlights. Hubka's delivery is straight forward but compelling while everyone gets an opportunity to stretch out to pay their homage to Coltrane. Especially commanding is Scott Whiffield's trombone solo and Frank Kimbrough's piano. Kimbrough's piano is the grout which keeps everything in place on this recording session. "Never Never Land" (somewhere between Oz and Wonderland it sounds like), has a fairy tale aura about it. Along with Hubka's delicate phrasing, there's an extended solo by guitarist John Hart with Tony Moreno's drums providing energetic punctuation in support. Hubka shows that she is no slouch with a guitar as she honors one of her mentors, Bob Dorough, on "Small Day Tomorrow." With Hart's guitar dispensing complementing chords, Hubka goes blues with Hoagy Carmichael's "Baltimore Oriole." Meredith d'Ambrosio, another singer who explores distinctive material, is recognized as Hubka does her composition, "August Moon."

There are many other musical virtues here which make this an attractive disk, not the least of which are the pleasant Hubka crystal clear voice, her impeccable phrasing and the spirited interplay between Hubka and the ensemble. But perhaps most critical is the balance she strikes between straight singing and wordless vocalizing and scatting. She doesn't scat on every tune but when she does, it becomes a tasteful contribution to the lyrical message she is conveying. This album is highly recommended.

Tracks

	Title	Composer	Time
R	1 Look No Further	Rodgers	3:22
	2 Morning	Fischer	4:41
	3 Baltimore Oriole	Carmichael, Webster	5:13
	4 Dolphin Dance	Hancock, Krimm	4:36
	5 In Walked John	Thompson	4:50
	6 Photograph	Gilbert, Jobim	3:51
	7 Never Never Land	Comden, Green, Styne	4:28
	8 Small Day Tomorrow	Dorough, Landesman	3:49
	9 Baby, You Should Know It	Dorough, Tucker	5:19
	10 In April [Instrumentally Known as For Nenette]	Evans, Schore	4:38
	11 August Moon	DAmbrosio	3:59
	12 Better Than Anything	Hubka, Loughbrough, Wheat	4:23

R indicates a click-through to a song review