



DIANE HUBKA YOU INSPIRE ME
VSOJAZ Records The 3300 Building, Suite 200
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We rarely review vocalists. However, when I saw that Diane Hubka has surrounded herself with seven of the best guitarists (Gene Bertoncini, Paul Bollenback, John Hart, Romero Lubambo, Bucky Pizzarelli, Frank Vignola and Jack Wilkins) I had to check it out. I'm glad I did.

This is her third CD. Her first, "Haven't We Met" with Lee Konitz was nominated for a 1999 Jazz award for best recording debut of the year. She has performed at the Blue Note, Birdland, Knitting Gallery and Washington's Blues Alley. This CD showcases her talents in a variety of settings-solo guitar, guitar duo, guitar, bass and drums.

There are 13 cuts on this 61 minute CD ranging from "Nuages," (with lyrics by JJG contributor Dr. Frank Forte), to "Wave," "Blue Moon," "Sunday in New York" and a beautiful original by Jack Wilkins and Marc Puricelli titled "Romance."



The CD kicks off with a swinging version of the Blaine/Martin tune, "Love" backed by Romero Lubambo and his Trio da Paz. Ms. Hubka vocals glide over the uptempo rendition of this rarely recorded tune. Bucky Pizzarelli and Frank Vignola give a lesson in rhythm playing and tasty improvisation on "Blue Moon"-another swinging tune performed with style and taste by Ms. Hubka. If your toes aren't tapping here then you've got a problem.

Bucky and Frank join up once again to back up Diane on a beautiful vocal version of the Gypsy jazz standard, "Nuages" and "Sunday in New York." Gene Bertoncini, the nylon string master, is featured on two cuts, "Suddenly" and "The Old New Waltz." John Hebert on bass and Jeff Hirshfield on drums keep the music moving along in an understated fashion. This is a CD that exudes taste, class and superb musicianship.

Reviewed by Ed Benson