



## **DIANE HUBKA**

### ***Look No Further***

(A Records)

Diane Hubka has a beautiful voice, is always in tune, swings, and improvises in subtle ways while doing justice to the words that she sings. Her second CD (following the previous *Haven't We Met*) teams her with guitarist John Hart, pianist Frank Kimbrough, bassist Dean Johnson, drummer Tony Moreno and (on five of the dozen selections) trombonist Scott Whitfield. Actually the highpoint is a wonderful version of "Small Day Tomorrow" which she sings while just being accompanied by her own guitar.

Although there are a few familiar numbers on the set (including Clare Fischer's "Morning," Herbie Hancock's "Dolphin Dance" and "Never Never Land"), much of the material is lesser known but no less worthy. Richard Rodgers' "Look No Further" deserves to be a standard, Malachi Thompson's "In Walked John" pays tribute to John Coltrane and Bob Dorough's "Baby, You Should Know It" is a happy blues. In Addition Hubka wrote some additional lyrics to "Better Than Anything."

Trombonist Whitfield interacts closely with the singer on a few of the numbers (they blend together quite well) and the singer scats just enough in spots to show listeners that she can do it on a high level whenever she wants.

Many CDs come out each year from Female jazz vocalists. Diane Hubka's latest release (available from the Dutch Challenge label's website [www.challenge.nl](http://www.challenge.nl)) is one of the best in recent times.

—**Scott Yanow**