

Jazz Tribute CD “From A Mother’s Heart” Celebrates Mom’s Day

by Skoot Larson

Just in time for Mother’s Day, the artists of the Sound Visions Media have released a new compilation CD, “From A Mother’s Heart.” If your mother enjoys music, this unique tribute to mothers is a thoughtful gift that offers more love and sentiment in eleven tracks than any greeting card you might grab off the rack.

The songs on “From A Mother’s Heart” are mostly original compositions written by each artist for their own mother. Most of the selections are vocals, and the writer’s lyrics could easily hold their own as inspirational poetry if they hadn’t been set music. The music, however, is what makes this tribute the very special offering that it is.

Mala Waldron, an accomplished pianist as well as a superb vocalist, opens and closes the program. She begins with a joyous Brazilian-sounding cadence on “Ellie (for Mom),” her wordless intonations backed by happily romping Latin bass and percussion. Waldron’s closing, “I Do Remember You,” provides one of this collection’s most caring messages to recap the deep and special feeling all the others have expressed with their feelings and tones. Waldron’s words lead us to a final spoken poem from guitarist John Stowel, “For My Chicoan Ancestors,” weaving a hypnotic spell as he speaks of his Native American forbearers with their simple yet deeply spiritual life long ago, over the strains of his *soto voce* guitar.

Bobby Timmon’s “Dat Dere,” provides a vehicle for reigning bop-voicing matriarch Sheila Jordan’s duet with bassman Christopher Dean Sullivan. Sullivan is a sensitive and perceptive player deserving of much wider recognition on the world jazz music scene, and his work here provides the perfect balance to Ms. Jordan’s expressive canvas of vocal colors.

Moving piano-backed ballads keep the flow of emotions growing, including Barbara Sfraga playing and singing “Song For My Mother,” Ellen Johnson, accompanied by Rick Helzer on her “With Every Kiss (for Frances),” “Children’s Playground,” sung and played by Peggy Duquesnal, and Judy Silvano’s metaphoric “Bougainvillea.” Anne Belmont adds a comfortable little waltz with the help of an un-named guitarist.

The one instrumental track is Don Braden’s “Song For Mother (She is Made of Love),” his flute richly crooning over a lithe blanket of Hammond B-3 woven by organist Kyle Kohler.

The liveliest and brightest tribute come from Brasil Brazil, a group that features Brazilian born vocalists Ana Gazzola and Sonia Santos backed by their own band from South America. Their contribution, “Menine Desdera,” or “Desdera Lady” in English, is sung in Portuguese. This group’s music is rich in the rhythms of their native land.

“From A Mother’s Heart” is available from the Vocal Visions website, <http://www.soundvisionsmedia.com> as a download that includes a PDF file of cover art and liner notes. Sound Visions’ Ellen Johnson says, “In our desire to keep this project kind to Mother Earth we are offering this CD as a download.”

Sound Visions Media have pledged to give a percentage the profits from this disc to an outstanding organization **MomsRising.org**, to assist them in bringing important motherhood and family issues to the forefront of the country's awareness. More information about this charity is available at www.momsrising.org.

More information about the individual artists can also be found on the Sound Visions website, <http://www.soundvisionsmedia.com>.