

Debbie Gifford
So Many Songs About Love
By K R “Skoot” Larson

Cleveland, Ohio has given us an amazing jazz interpreter in the person of Debbie Gifford, a lady who deserves to be heard on both coasts and everywhere between. Her new CD, *So Many Songs About Love*, not only heralds the dozen love songs digitized therein but is also the title of her own composition which leads off the lineup.

This recording was made in two different sessions. The first half was set down in New York with a piano – bass – drum trio of Linda Presgrave, Harvie Schwatz and Allison Miller. The second set, recorded in Ohio, features Debbie regular band of guitarist and bassman Bob Fraser and drummer Ricky Exton.

Debbie and the New York ensemble’s 6/8 minor key “I Didn’t Know What Time it Was” is worth the price of the CD by itself. Listening to this very sweet vocal arrangement one can almost picture composers Rogers and Hart somewhere smiling and popping their fingers! On the title cut Presgrave, Schwatz and Miller also swings very nicely as Debbie pairs her great lyrics with the catchy metre. Also from the New York session, “Close Your Eyes” exudes a special intimacy in Debbie’s voice paired with Schwartz’ clean paced walking bass.

A personal favorite is Debbie’s duet with the guitar of Rob Fraser on “When I Fall in Love.” Here the lady has infused Victor Herbert’s classic ballad with a special intimacy all her own. The guitar and voice duet works a very tasty magic as well on the song “Dreamer’s Holiday.” On the Latin classic, “Sway” Fraser’s guitar and Debbie’s voice really will start your hips swaying to the rhythm.

Debbie Gifford is not afraid to liven up her material with interesting and experimental tempos. “What a Difference a Day Makes” moves just up-speed from the ordinary hearing of this 50’s standard so the joy of the different day is readily apparent and Debbie’s take on the rock standard “Moondance” bounces more than swings with a quirky jaunty gait.

All in all, *So Many Songs About Love* is a delightful jazz adventure from a creative lady that deserves a lot more recognition on the music scene.

Debbie Gifford is on the web: www.debbiegifford.com

Track Listing: So Many Songs About Love/ Moondance/ Close Your Eyes/ What a Difference a Day Made/ Summertime/ Quiet Nights of Quiet Stars/ Dreamer's Holiday/ Somewhere Over the Rainbow/ Sway/ When I Fall in Love/ I Didn't Know What Time it Was/ I've Got a Crush On You

Personnel: Debbie Gifford – vocals; Harvie Schwartz – bass; Allison Miller or Ricky Exton – drums; Linda Presgrave – piano; Rob Fraser- guitar & electric bass