

Diane Hubka Debuts CD at the Jazz Bakery

by Skoot Larson

For those of you who have been anxiously awaiting a new disc from singer/guitarist Diane Hubka, the wait is over. Ms. Hubka debuted her new CD, "Diane Hubka Goes to the Movies," last Thursday, August 16th at the Jazz Bakery in Culver City. Three years in the making from the idea-seed to narrowing down the list of favorite film-score melodies, and then finding just the right soloist for the project, this new recording features one of the best collections of "movie music" ever assembled on one recording, and all the tunes swing!

For her Jazz Bakery performance, Ms. Hubka was accompanied by pianist Gerry Schroeder, local trumpet legend Carl Saunders, the contrabass of Chris Colangelo and Ralph Penland on drums. On the "Goes to the Movies" CD's tracks you'll hear Christian Jacobs, the arranger for much of this music on Piano, the skins of Joe LaBarbera, and some very fine additional guitar work by Larry Koonse.

Hubka's voice and style come through magically on the recording. The live performance, however, reflected that extra youthful sparkle Hubka projects in all her live shows. This lady makes every song she sings very personal as though she is singing to an individual rather than a crowd. At the Jazz Bakery, Hubka established a strong rapport early on by talking about the music: how she selected the various songs, and what each tune means to her personally. The only disappointment in the evening is that the lady didn't play her unique seven-string guitar on more of the selections, as she is an excellent guitarist as well as a great vocal interpreter of the music.

Accompanying herself on that guitar, Hubka sang a very movin version of Leonard Bernstein's "We'll Catch Up Some Other Time," to demonstrate her facility on the seldom-heard seven-string instrument. The lady's playing and singing on "Some Other Time" came across very relaxed and confident, Hubka projecting the futile lament of the tune's heavy-hearted lyric.

Diane Hubka's interpretation of "All God's Children Got Rhythm," was so much fun it left the song running through this writer's mind much of the next day. After Hubka explaining that she sings the lyrics without the exaggerated poor southern dialect, she had

Carl Saunders launch into a joyful romp of an introduction, Hubka's voice following Saunders into the song in a way that made feet tap out the rhythm involuntarily. Saunders jumped right in behind verse and chorus for a rousing solo to keep the happy beat rolling. Ms. Hubka contributed a superior scat chorus with Saunders joining in for eight rollicking bars of unison trumpet and voice.

Hubka also scatted out some serious music on the song "You're So Cute," which she described as "a song that could be in a movie someday."

Diane Hubka is a perfectionist, and you can sense it in her approach to the music. You can also sense her extreme love for jazz and the music she shares with her audience. Christian Jacobs' fine "bossa nova" arrangement of Jerome Kern's "I'm Old Fashioned," provide a vehicle that really brought this entire band alive with the catchy Brazilian beat, right up through Hubka's nimble scat ending. Her scat-singing intro and outro talents also livened up the 50's Disney classic "He's A Tramp," written by Peggy Lee for the film "Lady and the Tramp."

You can find where Diane is performing on her web site, dianehubka.com Diane Hubka's concert and club dates are always a great way to spend an evening out for jazz. When not on the stage, Diane Hubka employs her talents teaching both vocal and instrument jazz music privately. The lady's previous recordings are all currently available from CDBaby.com, and "Diane Hubka Goes to the Movies" should soon be there as well. This latest CD is one that definitely belongs in your collection.