



Janet Stevenson

Believe in Spring

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Believe in Spring is a journey through life, emotion, and most of all, great vocal jazz. Janet brings her warm and swinging vocals to a refreshing mix of ballads, swing, blues, and Brazilian songs.

Janet's passion for the music is shaped by a lifetime of listening to and performing jazz, and an education from some of its finest performers. She credits her sense of swing, great ears and pitch to her father, a jazz drummer who insisted that she study piano. Encouragement also came from performing with Cleveland "Cleve" Eaton, former bassist with Count Basie Orchestra and Ramsey Lewis Trio, along with her musical theatre experience. Janet says that her top vocal influences were Shirley Horn, Carmen McRae, and Sarah Vaughan.

Inspired by John Coltrane, she recorded the seldom-heard lyrics to **Say It (Over and Over)**, saying that it "just picked itself" as the opening song for the CD. She learned Edu Lobo's **Pra Dizer Adeus (To Say Goodbye)** in Portuguese because she was determined to capture its Brazilian feel. Her appreciation for great songwriters shows in Ivan Lins' **The Island** and **You Must Believe in Spring**, by Alan and Marilyn Bergman. The Bergmans, she says, "are just amazing lyricists," adding that **You Must Believe in Spring** isn't just about the change in the seasons, but about "believing in love." She was drawn to Abbey Lincoln's philosophical lyrics penned for **Blue Monk**. Another ballad, **Never Let Me Go**, is the result of Janet's study with the great pianist Barry Harris, who told her it was a song that every singer should learn.

"Beautiful, heartfelt and swinging renditions of timeless songs that take us on a musical and emotional journey. Wonderfully played by the musicians accompanying and fabulously sung by Janet Stevenson!"

– Anita Wardell: Winner, 2006 BBC "Best of Jazz" Award

"I have enjoyed your new CD very much...the cover, song choices, mood of the CD are all so nice - you sound very relaxed too. Congratulations."

– Roseanna Vitro: 2011 Grammy nominee & jazz educator

Profits from the sale of this CD will be dedicated to vocal jazz education and programming for the Dunwoody Jazz Society.

Track Listing:

1. Say It (Over and Over) (4:49)
2. **Just in Time (3:29) ***
3. He Was Too Good To Me (3:00)
4. The Island (Começar de Novo) (3:34)
5. Blue Monk (3:30)
6. Detour Ahead (5:19)
7. When I Grow Too Old to Dream (2:40)
8. Never Let Me Go (5:48)
9. Pra Dizer Adeus (To Say Goodbye) (5:46)
10. You Must Believe in Spring (4:13)

* This track was chosen as download of the day at AllAboutJazz.com on 6/8/12

Personnel:

Vocals: Janet Stevenson
Kevin Bales: Piano (on 1,2,4,5,7,9)
James "Jez" Graham: Piano (on 3, 6, 8, 10)
Robert Dickson: Bass
Marlon Patton: Drums/Perussion

Producer: Janet Stevenson

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