

CLAUDIA KOVAL REVIEWS

“Claudia Koval is a fine local singer who does justice in the lyrics she interprets. Her voice is attractive and sultry (when it fits the mood of the song), and she swings at all tempos. *With Heart and Soul*, which is dedicated to her mother, is a set of 11 standards that she uplifts through her infectious personality and joy at singing.

The vocalist is joined by pianist Andris Mattson (who also plays trumpet and accordion), bassist Nick Klingengerg, and drummer Ken Herrera with four appearances by Marc Macisso on flute, soprano, tenor and harmonica, and one by guitarist Paul Jameson. The instrumentalists are excellent but the main credit for the success of this CD goes to the singer.

Whether it's Ain't Misbehavin', Boulevard of Broken Dreams, The Shadow of Your Smile or Sentimental Journey, Claudia comes up with something fresh in her phrasing. She very ably sings 'Moody's Mood For Love' and 'I'm In The Mood For Love,' puts sincere feeling into 'Home,' and is even more successful with the pop song 'Can't Help Falling In Love.' With Heart and Soul is a happy surprise.”

~ Scott Yanow, LA Jazz Scene

“Running through a genuinely fearless set of tunes, the erstwhile Edmontonian impressed across the board of Darling's yesterday and had patrons like Sheila Jordan nodding along. Whatever Claudio Koval is picking up in LA should be distributed around town. “

~ Edomonton Journal Review

“Claudia Koval has a smooth, creamy voice that lends itself well to singing standards – with delicate delivery featuring gentle jazz licks, precise enunciation and slight quaver in her voice that adds to the emotional arc of each song. And what songs they are in this show – each a gem from a different era, from a light-hearted take on *Ain’t Misbehavin* (Fats Waller/Harry Brook/Andy Razaf) to a mellifluous rendering of *Boulevard of Broken Dreams* (Harry Warren/Al Dubin) to a reflective, beautifully phrased *Sentimental Journey* (Les Brown/Ben Homer/Bud Green).

Koval also delivered a sensuous, deliberate *Body and Soul* (Johnny Green/Edward Heymann/Robert Sour/Frank Eyton), a powerful *Fly Me to the Moon* (Bart Howard), and a soft, tender version of the Bonnie Raitt-recorded *Home* (Karla Bonoff). She ended the show with a sincere, forthright wish for her audience – *The Sweetest of Nights and the Finest of Days* (Shelly Markham/Judith Viorst). Among other selections, Koval performed an evocative *Got to Get You into My Life* (Paul McCartney) and, in what she called a ‘real departure’ for herself, a rousing version of the Janis Joplin hit, *Piece of My Heart* (Bert Berns/Jerry Ragovoy), sung with enough tweaks to make it fit very well into the cabaret milieu.

There was also a delicate *The Shadow of Your Smile* (Johnny Mandel/Paul Francis Webster) that culminated in a beautiful series of final notes. In a moment dedicated to her mother, there was a heartfelt *Can’t Help Falling in Love* (Hugo Peretti/Luigi Creatore/George David Weiss), in which she delivered each note with perfection.

Koval began most songs conventionally, then slipped gently into soft jazz patterns that gave her three musicians – billed as her “three gents” – ample opportunity to strut their own stuff. Andris Mattson, her godson, on piano; Ken Herrera on drums; and Nick Kligenberg on bass.”

~ Elliot Zwiebach, Cabaret Scenes Magazine

“I don’t get great recordings like this very often, so it was a pleasure to listen to, and Master. If you love jazz you will love Claudia Koval’s album ‘With Heart and Soul.’ A throwback to jazz bands of the past complimented by Claudia’s silky, smooth vocals! Well done, I can’t wait for your next project!” ~ Damon Mapp, the Mastering Source, Texas

“Claudia Koval’s solo cabaret debut in support of her CD, ‘With Heart and Soul’, was a relaxed paced, easygoing affair that showcased her fine voice and delightfully swinging style.” ~ Les Traub, Cabaret Scenes Magazine

“The strongest and most original performance on the album in ‘The Shadow of Your Smile.’ Koval’s sultry voice is well suited to the song’s simple, melancholy melody and poetic lyrics. Koval also does a nice job with ‘The Windmills of Your Mind,’ lending a theatrical flair to the late 1960s tune.” ~ Victoria Odin, Cabaret Scenes Magazine