

Pianos and More

Saturday, January 12, 2013



It's been a year since I first became exposed to the music of **Lorraine Feather**. Her 2012 CD, "*Tales of the Unusual*" (Jazzed Media), knocked me off my chair with its melodic charm and variety, Ms. Feather's erudite and often humorous lyrics (as well as her fine voice), and the excellent music. So, I had to just go check out her catalogue and discovered this woman has no fear, tackling the music of Thomas "Fats" Waller, Duke Ellington, and others, her lyrics capturing the atmosphere of the times when the songs were created.

For this new CD, "*Fourteen*" (Relarion Records), Ms. Feather joins forces with the fine young pianist **Stephanie Trick** and they dub their duo **Nouveau Stride**. They go back to the music of Waller, Ellington, James P. Johnson, Willie "The Lion" Smith and add Ms. Feather's pithy lyrics to their music and do the same to works by contemporary composers such as John Novacek, Robin Frost, and the late Artie Matthews. Ms. Trick created the music to "*Vive Le Boogie Woogie*", a bluesy romp that sounds a lot like the work of "Memphis Slim" (John Len Peter Chapman). These songs are happy, silly, pretty, classy and highly musical - the pianist is a wonderful technician yet, when she matches her talent with Ms. Feather witty lyrics, this program becomes irresistible. Whether it's taking "*Mule Walk*" (composed by Johnson) and creating lyrics that praise bats ("*Bat Boogie*") or Duke Ellington's "*Dancers in Love*" and telling the story of the perfect man ("*Imaginary Guy*"), this collaboration will make you smile.

Nouveau Stride is too good to ignore. Don't get hung up on genre, just get into these grooves and intelligent lyrics and let them roll over you. If this music does not make you smile, even laugh, shake your head and snap your fingers, you may be more depressed than you realize. Find this CD and let down your defenses - have fun! Lorraine Feather and Stephanie Trick certainly are. For more information, go to nouveaustride.com.

- Richard B. Kamins

(For complete post, see <http://steptempest.blogspot.com/2013/01/pianos-and-more.html>)