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Title: So It Goes
Artist: Anita Eccleston
Release Date: 2014
Genre: Jazz

Review by Ryan Noakes



Anita Eccleston is a jazz vocalist and trumpeter who presently calls Vancouver home. She completed her degree in Jazz Performance at McGill University in 2004, returned to the Interior of BC in 2006, and settled in Vancouver in 2011. "So It Goes" is her newest album, and it's been 3 years in the making. With that much time going into it, you know that this has been a true labour of love, and the love shows in the tracks.

I've had the pleasure of hearing her perform live for many a year, and I am also a proud owner of the Anita Eccleston Trio EP and her first solo album, the Anita Eccleston Jazz EP as well, so I came into my sneak peak copy of this new disk with high expectations. And I was totally blown out of the water, which can be hard to do when you have high expectations to begin with.

Firstly, while Anita has done some remarkable work with covering the usual jazz standards as well as putting her own spin on songs by artists like Amy Winehouse, REM, Sarah McLaughlin, and even covering music from Game of Thrones, I really was thrilled to see that all 11 tracks on this album are original songs written by Anita. While she can cover a song you have loved for years and make you fall in love with it all over again, Anita Eccleston can also write a song that instantly locks itself into your list of favourites, and this album has 11 prime examples. Her writing showcases her wonderfully diverse and eclectic musical influences, expertly crossing over from jazz to pop, rock, R&B, Motown, etc. For example, the album starts off with what initially appears to be a big band swing chart, but then clearly shows how she loves to interweave elements of different genres together into a great grooving tune.

As I said earlier, this is a "sneak peak" copy of the album. If you want your very own copy of the album, which personally I think you should very much want, you can go to her Pledge Music page (*think Kickstarter, but just for music*) and make a pledge. Every pledge gets you a digital copy of the album, and then depending on what you donate you can get a physical CD, a happy birthday phone call, your own private show, etc. Please click on the link at the end of this review for more information!

Anita's sultry voice is absolutely captivating throughout this album. She doesn't just convey the different emotions of the songs, she makes you experience them with her. Her trumpet playing is full of great licks, and really enhances the tracks she plays on. She is also joined by a staggering nineteen(!) additional musicians throughout the album, encompassing saxes, trombones, clarinet, violin, viola, cello, Wurliitzer, and of course the usual guitar, drums, and bass – both electric and upright – all of whom give excellent performances. This is a solid disk, and I'm really loving it!

Track Listing:

1. Through It All
2. Just an Hour
3. Flicker of My Eye
4. Claim On You
5. Red Shoes
6. Scarlet Scribbles
7. Lovesick
8. Fumbling Forward
9. Call Me Up
10. Island Lament
11. The Good Life

Visit Anita Eccleston at:
www.anitaeccleston.com

Check out Anita's Pledge Music page at:
<http://www.pledgemusic.com/projects/soitgoes>

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