



Dan Singer from New York City
turns the spotlight on some overlooked
singers of the past and some bright newcomers, all of which are
SINGER'S SINGERS

DEANNA REUBEN: THE VERY THOUGHT OF YOU
no label or # www.deannareuben.com

Deanna is delicate when she should be and forceful when it matters most – fresh as a singing daisy. There's much to throw yourself into here.

A pair of Schwartz/Dietz songs can't be bettered. The verse of "I See Your Face Before Me" just glows. The tenderness of their "Haunted Heart" should stay with you for quite some time. Her treatment of "Devil May Care" (Kirk/Dorough) is uptempo and uplifting. Ms. Reuben dazzles here and is wildly on key throughout. The title song (Noble) is almost still sung. Bob Meashey most ably helps out on flugelhorn.

"Where Do You Start" (Bergmans/Mandel) is a moody yet spellbinding musical treat. Deanna never lets up in a deep engrossing beautiful cry for a romantic past most personal. It's emotionally draining. One can't go wrong with the pair of Duke Ellington songs: "Just Squeeze Me" (Gaines) and "I Didn't Know Enough About You" (Russell). Both can't be improved upon. There is so much more to wrap yourself into here in this her third album.

CY COLEMAN: IT STARTED WITH A DREAM
Sony Classical 89138 www.sonyclassical.com

It's so lovely hearing tunesmiths singing and playing their own songs. No one does it better. Here we have 17 of Cy's finest melodies performed to the max. He's even assisted, not that he needs it, by Tony Bennett and Lillias White.

Cy's done this before many years ago in London on Columbia Records #9328 "If My Friends Could See Me Now". But this time around there's so much more to bask in. Appropriate strings abound. Producer Mike Berniker has left nothing out. Mr. Coleman has never written an uninteresting song. Boring he's not. There's plenty to be excited about here.

KAREN MARGUTH: KAREN MARGUTH
no label no # www.karenmarguth.com

Wow. I am delightfully exhausted. What a remarkable non-stop carefully selected 17-song programme. Just where to begin? Karen's CD has bebop jazz and beautiful standards. During her Spanish singing of "Lagrimas Negras" (Matamoros) you can hear some remarkable solos on the mandolin by Eva Scow. It's most endearing and will remain with you for a long time.

The lovely ballad "Daydream" (Ellington/Strayhorn/La Touche) is a delight. There's Nathan Guzman's exciting guitar solo to look for but it's Karin who's really in charge throughout with her superb vocalizing. Her most imaginative version of "That Old Black Magic" (Arlen/Mercer) will delightfully stun you. It's so fresh and absolutely unforgettable. Imagine just what sparkling colours a mandolin solo here does to enhance this version. Listen for Karen's surprising final high note. It's remarkable. Another oldie "All Of Me" (Marks/Simons) has her scat singing with her great bass player Kevin Hill. Together they bring such luscious newness to a most familiar song.

On "The Nearness Of You" (Carmichael/Washington) her guitarist Mike Taylor's unbelievable assist makes this sweetest endearing ballad one of her many highlights. What a high note to conclude this amazing CD. It's certain to appear on my ten best list of the year.

ANITA ELLIS: THINKING OF YOU
Flare 250 www.flarerecordslondon.com

Here's a singer you all know. You've heard her so many times and yet her name probably is new to you. I'll explain just what I mean by divulging this little known secret. She's the behind the camera singing voice in many of the movies for Rita Hayworth, Shelly Winters, Vera-Ellen, Joan Caulfield, and Jeanne Crain. And now you know. Most of the 21 songs here are from collections of collector's rare recordings. The first set of songs are genuinely amazing. They are from 1945 military air checks music shows: Delicious versions of "Where Of When" (Rodgers/Hart), "I'm In The Mood For Love" (McHugh/Fields) and "Shoo Shoo Baby" (Moore). Just wait until you hear her sing the string laden "Golden Earrings" (Livingston/Evans). Her take is so emotionally serious. From 1954 "Daddy" (Troup) is sung with Jane Russell working along side her so well here. They are so upbeat, totally amazing and are certain to command your attention. Then there's "After You Get What You Want You Don't Want It" (Berlin) from 1956. London's Geraldo orchestra really pumps things up here – it sparkles.

EARL COLEMAN: RETURNS
Prestige 187 www.concordrecords.com

Right out of the Billy Eckstine/Herb Jeffries mould, Earl Coleman was an explosive deep-throated singer that you just could not ever hear enough. Ira Gitler's detailed notes make for an educational and interesting read. He really answers many questions about this extraordinary singer. Firstly just listen to the names of the musicians who really bring out these great 1955 and 1956 sessions: Art Farmer, Hank Jones, Gene Ammons, and Oscar Pettiford. The 10 songs are so imaginatively presented. "Ghost Of a Chance" (Crosby/Washington/Young) has never sounded better with Gene Ammon's magnificent tenor sax solo. This remarkable, deep, rich version is bound to attract your attention. His magic is really evident. There are so many great musical moments for you to explore here.

ELIANE ELIAS: BOSSA NOVA STORIES
Blue Note 28103 www.elianeelias.com

Singer/pianist Eliane Elias sings and plays up a storm here. Her programme of 14 songs couldn't be better. There are plenty of songs from her native Brazil. But here I wish to accent her wonderful ways with some renditions of popular standards. "The More I See You" (Warren/Gordon) moves along steadily. Her smooth silky vocal will get your attention throughout. "They Can't Take That Away From Me" (Gershwin) is delightfully enchanting. Midway her piano is like a bright ray of sunshine. Her fine musical accent is always on the right beat. "Day In Day Out" (Mercer/Bloom) musically sweeps along. It's familiar yet flows like a cool crisp gentle stream that you wish never ended. On "Too Marvelous For Words" (Mercer/Whiting). Ms. Elias continues to surprise us with an unusual zippy and on the beat vocal. "Day By Day" (Stordahl/Weston/Cahn), with the assist of a large orchestra, sounds totally brand new – romantically lovely. Listen to her piano play with this large orchestra. It's spellbinding. Eliane is truly a most amazing, gifted performer.