

# Joe Lang review

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Among my favorite vocalists are the ladies like June Christy, Chris Connor, Anita O'Day and Julie London who defined the 1950s "cool school" of vocalizing. The songs sung by the four ladies mentioned above are the source for the program of singer **KATHY KOSINS** on her fine new album, *To the Ladies of Cool* (Resonance – 1018). Kosins has wisely chosen to apply her own vocal sensitivities to 10 tunes that were among those performed by Christy, Connor, O'Day and London, with not even a hint of imitation. In doing so, she did not rely on the songs that are most associated with these ladies of song. There are no signature songs like Christy's "Something Cool," Connors's "All About Ronnie," O'Day's "Honeysuckle Rose" or London's "Cry Me a River." She opted for tunes that Kosins felt suited her stylistically and emotionally, and she renders them with taste, confidence, and a superb feel for phrasing that makes each lyric ring true. She did dig deep, as illustrated by the tune titled "Hershey's Kisses." The original Johnny Mandel melody was called "Hershey Bar," and had been done as a wordless vocal by O'Day. Kosins has added clever lyrics, and updated the title to reflect her words. Her instrumental support is supplied by pianist Tamir Handelman, who also penned the hip arrangements, bassists Kevin Axt or Paul Keller, guitarist Graham Dechter, drummer and vibist Bob Leatherbarrow, reedman Steve Wilkerson and trumpeter/flugelhornist Gilbert Castellanos. This is a concept album of wonderful originality that recalls an era, but brings the music into the now. ([www.resonancerecords.org](http://www.resonancerecords.org))