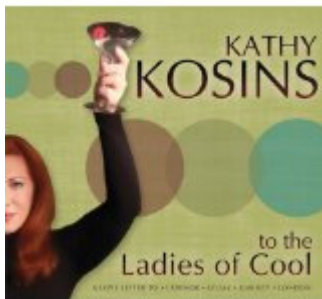




- **Dee Dee Reviews Kathy Kosins**

- **(Mar 27, 2012, 9:51 PM PDT)**

Here is no-nonsense jazz pulled like taffy from the sticky pot of 1960's classic jazz celebrity. This production reminds me of Coltrane, early Miles, Eric Dolphy, Yusef Lateef and all the great straight-ahead masters who had that driving, powerful music that encouraged action.



KATHY KOSINS - "To the Ladies of Cool" - Resonance Records

One thing I've always enjoyed about Kathy Kosins is her ability to "sell the song". Kosins is a melodic storyteller. Her voice is rich and warm as she interprets and vocally explores each song on this tribute CD.

"Learning the Blues" has always been a favorite of mine. I was introduced to it by Julie London's smokey style back in the days of the "Peter Gunn" television show. It was pleasant hearing Kosins bring this lovely tune back to life with a totally different approach. Oh it's still bluesy, but with Tamir Hendelman (arranger/pianist) adding a more avant garde intro and then Kosins swinging hard throughout. That's another thing I have always admired in this native Detroiter - she knows how to swing!

Another talent Kosins offers is her award-winning ASCAP songwriting abilities. The album's liner notes say she writes Contemporary Pop and R&B tunes as well as jazz. On this recording she struts her songwriting credentials on Hershey's Kisses, a composition by Johnny Mandel. Her voice floats above drummer Bob Leatherbarrow without the band's support in some places, and she lets you know that she can scat by trading appropriate fours with reed man Steve Wilkerson, who shines in his own impeccable light. Kosins holds her own becoming a smooth vocal horn. Her lyrics are creative and appropriately embellish Mandel's melody.

Kosins has chosen ten songs to tribute the 'ladies of cool' who she acknowledges as Anita O'Day, June Christy, Chris Connor and Julie London. The musicians on this recording add extra luster to an already sparkling project. Gilbert Castellanos plays stellar trumpet and flugelhorn throughout. I enjoyed the tender way he embellished the song "Don't Wait Up for Me".

There are plenty of vocalists out there claiming to be jazz singers, but from my perspective, unless you can swing you can never be an authentic jazz artist. Kosins definitely can, and I look forward to hearing more of that talent on her next recording. All in all, this recording is well produced and a pleasant listening experience.

