

CD Review

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Bob Levy's "Connections"

(SRM)

By: Bert Gagnon, Neon Productions Radio, Musictogousa.com



"Connections" is a recent release from Bob Levy with his collaborators Alex Rybeck, Harriet Goldberg, Ronny Whyte, Krisanthi Pappas, Dennis Livingston and Jon Burr. This is a collection of love songs written in a way that has sophistication and can be experienced by the listeners own lens rather than the experience of somebody else. Bob also takes you on a geographical journey spanning from Parisian cafe's, New York City stages, Bostonian playhouses and Chicago clubs. This is one of the best collections of songs in jazz, cabaret, jazz/blues and Broadway sounds.

On first hearing this romanticized CD, you will get the feeling that all these songs are about love relationships with normal love lost, love found themes...but Bob also includes crushes never pursued, lifelong love and spiritual love, a type of love that is far out of space and time, but can also be interpreted as human love relationship.

"Connections" is light-spirited, edgy, moody, humorous and inspirational yet holds onto the romance feel overall. This is in part the combination of quality professional songwriting, composition, arrangement, orchestration and performance. The CD is not ladened with distractions and over-production. The mix of the produced project is refreshing and enhances the romance impression. In fact, I would call this "love impressionism" which allows the listener to actually participate rather than just being a spectator.

All 21 tracks are worth mentioning, however, I will give you what I feel are the key tracks:

Move On - Krisanthi Pappas
Why Can't We Linger In Spring? - Krisanthi Pappas
What Else Can I Do? - Dane Vannatter
Starting All Over - Dane Vannatter
He Remembers, She Remembers - Joyce Breach
Have We Ever Met? - Matt Ray
My Never Ending Dream - Jinny Sagorin
Nothing To Lose - Dane Vannatter
Welcome Me Home - Barbara Porteus
The Moon, The Stars, The Sky - Billy Novick Quartet (instrumental bonus track)
If Your Heart Could Fly - Jamey Whiting
It's Time For Love - Ronny Whyte
My Husband Doesn't Dance - Judi Figel

The key tracks listed are in no particular order, however, having this number of key tracks shows not only the immensity of this project, but the extreme high quality of this project in its entirety.

Newcomers to the genres in this CD will wonder why they haven't jumped onto the "jazz bandwagon" so to speak....those that love jazz will automatically pick **"Connections"** as their new favorite album. Bob Levy has once again proved to me his ingenious way of handling lyrics and his ability to get his lyrics into top composers and performer's hands that makes this project a resounding success.

To summarize in one word...Magnificent!

<u>Vocalists</u>: Dane Vannatter, Ronny Whyte, Krisanthi Pappas, Joyce Breach, Judi Figel, Matt Ray, Jinny Sagorin, Barbara Porteus & Jamey Whiting.

<u>Musicians</u>: Daniel May, Alex Rybeck, Ronny Whyte, Doug Hammer, Jon Burr, Boots Maleson, Jim Rice, Jered Egan, Bob Renino, Rex Benincasa, Mauricio de Souza, Steve Skop, John DiSanto, Bill Vint, Tim Ray, David Clark, Bill Reynolds, Billy Novick, Jon Wheatley, Matt Ray & Jamey Whiting.