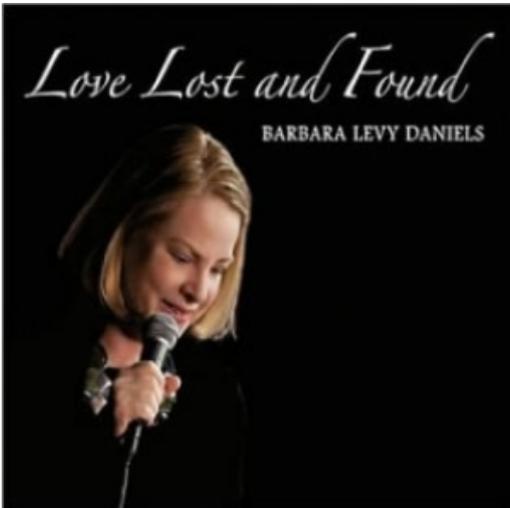


Barbara Levy Daniels



Song Samples:

It Could Happen to You	Jazz	Play Song	Download
Say It Isn't So	Jazz	Play Song	Download
My Heart Stood Still	Jazz	Play Song	Download
I Got Lost in His Arms	Jazz	Play Song	Download
Mean to Me	Jazz	Play Song	Download
It's the Talk of the Town	Jazz	Play Song	Download
Moonglow	Jazz	Play Song	Download
Willow Weep for Me	Jazz	Play Song	Download
Comes Love	Jazz	Play Song	Download

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At the tender age of 12, young vocalist Barbara Levy Daniels was auditioning for ABC Paramount Records. Its president had invited no less a personage than Ray Charles to listen in and give an opinion. "Sign her right away" was The Genius' verdict. That was over 50 years ago, followed by a number of singles and a 30 year practice in psychotherapy. Over the past 15 years, Barbara managed to find the time to create two highly acclaimed albums and now offers further testimony to Ray's endorsement with her new CD Love Lost and Found.

With a voice of liquid gold, Barbara fully demonstrates a quality of all truly great singers –absolute confidence in both her instrument and the manner in which she wields it. On this CD, she takes on 13 classics from the Great American Songbook, and in her early champion's manner, she makes each of these often-performed pieces entirely her own. Her vocal style here can be comfortably compared to the great saxophone song interpreters - like Hawkins, Webster and Young - in using the lyrics as a launching point for her musical interpretation. They inspire the story she tells, but she's never confined by them. The storytelling essence of Barbara's artistry is explained by her statement: "While I listen to life stories by day, I sing about life stories when I perform."

Full-bodied and resonant, her voice is highly emotive, often marked by the type of cry that is heard in the styles of Johnny Hodges and Gene Ammons, subtly adding to the emotional impact without even a hint of affectation. Never even remotely straining to hit each tone directly in its heart, she roots in there and allows the resonance to expand outward in a powerful aural pastiche.

While Barbara does not employ her scatting style on this CD, the music is unquestionably jazz. What sets the non-scatting jazz vocalist apart from a regular singer of songs are an inherent sense of rhythmic creativity and interpretative freedom interacting with a supporting group that provides an environment for expressive development. All of that is in full bloom on Love Lost and Found. The ensemble is comprised of extraordinary musicians who are not only topflight artists, but who also understand the subtleties demanded by their supporting roles and how to bring total creativity to the musical concept. The empathy here is so powerful that they sound like they've all been playing with Barbara for many years.

Pianist John di Martino is always fully in sync with Barbara's vision at each moment, prodding, enhancing and embracing each note and phrase and never falling into the obvious choices that can occur in vocal accompaniment. Bassist Boris Kozlov's deeply wooded tone provides the heartbeat of the music - his heavily syncopated rhythmic mastery often providing the nucleus around which the track is built. His full-bodied sound contrasts beautifully with Barbara's voice and his phrasing both propels and supports the music. Drummer Shinnosuke Takahashi blends sublime subtlety with rhythmic dynamism that anchors each piece perfectly. Cornetist Warren Vaché is present on eight tracks, usually muted, and a master of lyricism and impeccable taste whether playing obbligato or soloing. Guitarist Paul Meyers adds zest, sparkle and color to three pieces as well. Vaché and di Martino share all the solos, always succinct and in sharp focus.

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