

Nicole Edwards' Jazzy New CD

Nicole Edwards' new CD has got me in a jazz mood. Those of you who have read my past reviews may know I am not well versed in the jazz world. I have a few compilation discs in my collection but none that would

intricacies of these songs, bringing their respective skills to bear without venturing far from the basic track allowing Edwards the floor when she sings.

Edwards' voice croons over these tunes with a supple purr.

singer of songs, which is to say she not only sings the words, she expresses them. Her voice is supple in the lower register and able to reach the heights of a soprano at will.

This ability serves these songs well, allowing Edwards to call these songs her own by virtue of her vocal skill.

The two originals on this album are worth the price of admission on their own. *Don't Worry Baby* has a wonderfully nostalgic feel to it, somewhere between 1970's Montreal middle of the road and late night FM radio.

The title track, *Sparkin'*, is pure Nicole Edwards: sensuous word-play with a great back beat.

The group that takes a back seat to this great voice cannot be left unheralded. Ed White and Jon Heaton on drums and bass, respectively, keep the songs well rooted allowing saxophonist Sebastien Bujon and pianist Annie Avery to play off the beat and do that noodling that they do so well.

Sparkin' will be available in stores around Dec. 12. I am confident this CD will make the Christmas season in this neck of the woods a fair bit warmer.

Nicole Edwards can be found on the web at www.myspace.com/nicoleedwardsmusic.

Bill Polonsky can be found at strangethingsdone.com.



peg me as an aficionado of the genre.

I blame it on my age and narrow mind. This bias of mine, I am happy to report has subsided and mellowed with age and exposure to new works.

Sparkin' has called up my inner jazz cat making me realize how familiar I am with much of this music. On this CD, Edwards has called on some jazz standards and added a personal touch with two original songs.

The atmosphere that Edwards has created on this CD is just as much at home on a sunny day as it is late at night.

The combo she has convened for this album is well versed in the

Her voice enunciates the flavour of each song, bringing the listener into the world of each song to expert effect.

I was happy to hear *Besame Mucho* included in this album. I have an automatic reaction to this song that makes me want to sing out the chorus -- "Love me forever and say that you'll always be mine" -- whenever I hear it. I always loved this song as one of my favourites; in this version, Edwards chooses to sing it in the original Spanish. Ay carumba!

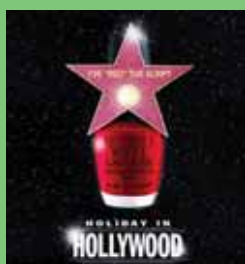
Her take on *La Vie En Rose*, with a swing, makes this album trilingual.

Edwards' voice is unique in the music of the Yukon. She is a real



"Nicole Edwards' voice croons over these tunes with a supple purr," says our reviewer of *Sparkin'*.

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