



Lua Hadar

Jazz Without Borders

Jazz at Pearl's



Vocalist Lua Hadar continues her *Jazz Without Borders* show, a pastiche of show tunes, Great American Songbook and a smattering of French/Italian numbers that emphasized her inclusive range and world view. Backed by a seasoned trio (Jason Martineau on piano, Mario Suracci on bass and Randy Odell on drums) and buoyed by the remarkable reed work of Tony Malfatti, Lua made the most of each number which ranged from bossa nova, swing, jazz waltz to ballad.

C'est Ci Bon, sung in French, displayed Lua's playful side. Three more numbers in Italian reflected the singer's affection for the time she spent there working in musical theatre (*Il Tempo Passo*, *Never Never Land* from an Italian one-woman production of *Peter Pan*, and a cover of Pink Martini's *Una Notte a Napoli*). In between was some Gershwin (*Soon, How Long Has This Been Going On*) and Rodgers and Hart (*It Never Entered My Mind, My Romance*) sung in her trademark soprano. A haunting arrangement of Eden Ahbez's *Nature Boy* was a highlight of the evening as was a humorous rendition of the Hoagy Carmichael/Frank Loesser duet *Two Sleepy People* with guest artist Robert Weinapple.

Lua Hadar has a lovely voice, perfect pitch and an infectious smile. She is comfortable with her material and enjoys presenting a wide choice of genres and emotional ranges. And it doesn't hurt to surround yourself with great musicians.

Steve Murray

Cabaret Scenes

May 17, 2007

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