

Monika Borzym - My Place (2013)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Falling* 2. *Tidal Wave* 3. *Only Girl (In the world)* 4. *My Place* 5. *Finding Her Way* 6. *Pisces* 7. *Unrequited* 8. *Off To Sea* 9. *The Quiet Crowd* 10. *In The Name of Love* 11. *Prelude* 12. *Świat w proszku* 13. *Timeless* Musicians Monika Borzym – vocals Larry Campbell – guitar Kenny Wollesen – drums Tony Scherr – bass John Scofield – guitar Romero Lubambo – acoustic guitar Steve Cardenas - guitar Chris Potter – saxophone Randy Brecker – trumpet

Two years ago Monika Borzym debuted with album "Girl Talk" (2011) which was unbelievably good for a girl just over her twenty. It announced arrival to our scene of a talent of caliber not seen in Poland for decades. Her second disc "My Place" (2013) confirms thoroughly how gifted she is as it sounds much better than first one marking important step in the development of this already fully accomplished singer.

"My Place" contains mostly original compositions written by Borzym in cooperation with pianist Mateusz Obijalski. These are mostly simple songs which however are so unpretentious and pretty that it is impossible no to hum them to himself long after actual rehearsal of the album. As her first recording this one was produced by Matt Pierson who made a great job indeed as music sounds on par with the best albums released in the US or elsewhere. Additionally album features Borzym's interpretations of Rihanna's hit single "Only Girl (in the World)", "The Quiet Crowd" by Patrick Watson and Kenny Rankin's "In the Name of Love".

The names of musicians Borzym hired for this session do indeed make the heart of every true jazz lover beat harder. Drummer Kenny Wollesen and bassist Tony Scherr constitute regular rhythm section of legendary American guitarist Bill Frisell who did not took part in this recording but instead of him we can hear here the guitar of John Scofield and Larry Campbell. Saxophonist Chris Potter and trumpeter Randy Brecker, both coming from the first division of

jazz musicians, complement this stellar supporting band.

Although for me and many others in Poland Borzym's has been until recently completely unknown she is very well educated. She started learning piano in music school in Warsaw at the age of 8, the instrument which she eventually changed for vocal studies. The turning point in her education was scholarship she was granted at University of Miami Frost School of Music "where she studied in classes of jazz musicians, such as Lisanne Lyons, Dante Luciani, Chuck Bergeron, Larry Lapin and Greg Gisbert" (source: wikipedia). She now resides in Los Angeles and although she frequently visits Poland she obviously hopes for making international career.

And basing on her outstanding musicality and incredible vocal talent her hopes are fully justified. Although rooted in jazz her singing on "My Place" is clearly steering towards neo-soul and even pop music territory. But personally I don't see anything wrong with it as she does so with great elegance and class. Placing herself somewhere between Erykah Badu and Adele she has clearly a style of her own and she seems determined enough to be able (with a stroke of luck!) to achieve great things in future. ---Maciej Nowotny, polish-jazz.blogspot.com

Po bardzo udanym i świetnie odebranym przez krytyków albumie "Girl Talk", Monika Borzym wraca z drugim, studyjnym albumem "My place". Najnowsza płyta to smaczna kolekcja jazzowych ballad i coverów, nagranych z nowym zespołem.

- Nie wyobrażam sobie kopiowania swoich poprzednich płyt. Poza tym mam dopiero 23 lata, wszystko u mnie bardzo szybko się zmienia. Podobają mi się nowe rzeczy, poznaję nowych ludzi, więc szukam też nowych brzmień. - mówi Monika Borzym. - A że jestem wokalistką, która ma ogromne wsparcie ze strony wytwórni, co daje mi możliwość spełniania marzeń muzycznych, korzystam z tej możliwości. Wymyślam sobie muzyków, o współpracy z którymi marzę i cieszę się jak mała dziewczynka kiedy okazuje się, że to możliwe.

Na nowej płycie gościnnie wystąpili m.in. z gitarzysta jazzowy John Scofield, brazylijski wirtuoz gitary akustycznej Romero Lubambo, saksofonista Chris Potter i trębacz Randy Brecker. W zespole znaleźli się tym razem m.in. gitarzysta Larry Campbell (znany ze współpracy z Bobem Dylanem i Paulem Simonem), perkusista Kenny Wollesen (grywał z Johnem Zornem, Norah

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Jones i John Scofield) i basista Tony Scherr (m.in. Norah Jones, The Lounge Lizards, John Scofield). Autorem lwiej części materiału jest kolega ze szkoły, pianista Mariusz Obijalski.

Za produkcję odpowiedzialny jest Matt Pierson, znany już z pierwszej płyty. Można na niej znaleźć zarówno nastrojowe kompozycje Mariusza Obijalskiego i Moniki Borzym jak i covery światowych przebojow: "Only Girl in the World" z repertuaru Rihanny, "The Quiet Crowd" Patricka Watsona oraz "In the Name of Love" Kenny'ego Rankina. ---radiokrakow.pl

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