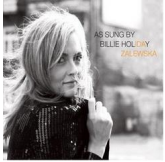


Ida Zalewska - As Sung By Billie Holiday (2012)

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1. *Lover Man* (6:31) 2. *Foolin' Myself* (5:19) 3. *You Go To My Head* (6:02) 4. *Lady Sings The Blues* (4:08) 5. *Now Or Never* (3:44) 6. *For All We Know* (4:42) 7. *I'm a Fool to Want You* (2:12) 8. *Fine And Mellow* (6:04) Musicians: Ida Zalewska - vocal Kuba Pluzek - Fender Rhodes, piano Max Mucha - double bass Arek Skolik - drums + Piotr Schmidt - trumpet Marek Pospieszalski - tenor sax, bass clarinet Jarosław Bothur - tenor sax Adam Solski - trombone Bartek Pieszka – vibraphone

Sometimes I am like a little child: I like SURPRISES! And this record is such a surprise, a very pleasant surprise indeed. Because who really heard anything about Ida Zalewska? For couple of years she was verging between soul, blues, R&B and jazz. But she never indeed made to spotlights as separate, distinctive and creative individuality. Not until 10th November that is the day of premiere of her second (at least it seems so to me!) album dedicated to American heroine of vocal jazz, Billie Holiday.

You could ask what made so deep impression on me? Certainly all these songs were sung hundreds of times after the immortal performances by Lady Day. But somehow Ida Zalewska succeeded where many have failed. She neither tried to reinterpret these songs and make them coherent with modern jazz aesthetics nor she imitated performances of Holliday in which case she would be doomed to failure. Instead she sung Billie Holliday songs in most natural, unpretentious and sincere way expressing her love towards art as created by this extraordinary woman. Since it coincides with the fact that almost all these songs are about love, therefore the album is sparkling with emotions, with longing, with sweet languor associated with being enamoured in other human being.

This sensuous mood is marvellously underlined by Ida's voice. Unlike any other in Poland this voice is deep, low, sultry. It reminds me a bit of voice of Diana Krall without being overcontrolled

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or Norah Jones without being monotonous. If I was to compare her to somebody, I would point out at Patricia Barber who though not having big voice through masterfully operating moods manages to make her singing unique. Ida seems to follow similar route, and I am happy to announce now, ladies and gentlemen, the birth of an accomplished jazz singer!

But her star would not shine so brightly without background as created by stunning performances of musicians who accompany her. They are all well known to connoisseurs of Polish jazz. Her quartet consists of pianist Kuba Pluzek (very talented enfant terrible of famous Music Academy in Katowice), double bassist Max Mucha (yet another fabulously talented young lad from this school) and veteran drummer Arek Skolik (whose class is beyond any doubt). They are supported by very well chosen set of guests in persons of trumpeter Piotr Schmidt, saxophonists Marek Pospieszalski and Jaroslaw Bothur, trombonist Adam Solski and vibraphonist Bartek Pieszka. These guys' input in creating this excellent piece of jazz cannot be overestimated. Bravo! --- Maciej Nowotny, polish-jazz.blogspot.com

Dlaczego nagraliśmy taką płytę? Jak myślicie? Wcale nie dlatego, że takiej jeszcze nie ma, czy że to niby jakaś nowość. To tak naprawdę nowa starość. Nie ma też w niej nic odkrywczego. Jest za to coś, co było, jest i będzie: miłość.

U Billie miłość była fundamentem muzyki, którą tworzyła. Był też alkohol, co gdzieś tam słychać... I u nas również było i to, i to, dlatego mogliśmy sobie pozwolić na nagranie tych piosenek bez żadnych skrępowań. Po prostu spotkaliśmy się i właściwie bez przygotowań nagraliśmy to, co mieliśmy do przekazania.

To nie jest nadęta płyta, w której chcemy się wykazać i mierzymy się z utworami legendarnej wokalistki. To jest nasza płyta z piosenkami o miłości, które kiedyś śpiewała Billie Holiday. ---Ida Zalewska, blues.com.pl

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