



June Bissantz
JUNE BISANTZ



*June Bisantz, Tokyo, Japan
Norman Johnson, guitar; Alex Nakhimovsky, piano*



*June Bisantz, Waterbury Palace Theater, CT
Alex Nakhimovsky, piano; Matt Dwonszyk, bass; Gabor Viragh, trumpet;
Ben Belillo, drums; Rich Goldstein, guitar*

JUNE BISANTZ

Award-winning vocalist and visual artist **JUNE BISANTZ** has co-written and produced several collections of original vocal jazz, all of which have received national recognition.

In addition to many other awards and honors, Ms. Bisantz is a recent recipient of the Connecticut Office of the Arts 2025 Fellowship Award for her work in both visual art and music.

Bisantz has toured internationally, recording and performing with distinguished jazz musicians including Steve Swallow, Bob Moses, Paul Brown, Lew Soloff, Jerry Neiwood, Mike Stern, Jon Burr, Steve Davis & Will Lee. Reviews and articles about her work have appeared in publications including People Magazine, USA Today, Downbeat, Jazziz Magazine, Jazz Podium Magazine, Jazz USA, the New York Times, New York Newsday & the Boston Globe. Her work has been released on the Pausa and Nova labels, Los Angeles; Alpha Records, Japan; Track Records and Arabesque Records, NY.

Following a two-volume tribute to the vocal work of the legendary **Chet Baker** (*Let's Fall in Love* and *It's Always You*), Bisantz released *Love's Tango*, co-written with pianist & composer **Alex Nakhimovsky**. This project signaled her return to original music with a collection of Latin inspired songs about love in its many forms. *Love's Tango* received a 2019 **Global Music Award** for Lyrics & Songwriting; a 2024 **World Songwriting Award** for Best Jazz Song; a 2024 **Clouzine International Music Award** for Best Latin Pop Album. In addition, *Love's Tango* was a finalist for a **World Songwriting Award for Best Music Video** 2025. Her 2022 and 2023 releases, *7 Shades of Snow* and *It's Been A Long, Long Time* both received **Global Music Outstanding Excellence Awards** in the Female Vocalist and Americana categories.

Ms. Bisantz is Professor Emerita of Art & Design at Eastern Connecticut State University and has exhibited her visual art work in galleries, museums and public spaces throughout the United States.



JUNE BISANTZ

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"Bisantz has a smoky sound, reminiscent of Phoebe Snow (but less affected). Backed by Evans' prismatic arrangements, she achieves an offhand hipness on this loose, happy set."

USA Today

"Most captivating of all is Bisantz, a gifted singer with a warm, bright voice and marvelous offhand timing. She navigates fast, complicated melodies with sensuous, feline ease. Her voice is a revelation - caressing and velvety, but electrically alive."

Eric Levin, People Magazine

Listen @ soundcloud.com/junebisantz

Photos & Video @ junebisantz.com/photos

“Vocalist June Bisantz pays tribute to the singing of legendary trumpeter/vocalist Chet Baker on this collection of standards associated with him.

Along with collaborators pianist Alex Nakhimovsky and guitarist Norman Johnson, the group achieves its goal by emulation rather than imitation.

Bisantz captures Baker’s soft, intimate vocal sound, the key to making the project work. It’s a vocal style completely out of step with current “diva” practice: seemingly almost casual, with no overt technical or emotional display.”

All About Jazz

Mark Sullivan

Fall 2015

The screenshot shows the All About Jazz website interface. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Articles, News, Downloads, Musicians, Gallery, Events. Below this is the site logo 'all-about-jazz' and a search bar. The main header area displays the article title 'June Bisantz: It's Always You: June Bisantz Sings Chet Baker Vol. 2' in a large, bold font. Below the title, it says 'By MARK SULLIVAN' and 'Published: November 11, 2015 | 585 views'. There is a star rating and a 'View related photos' link. The article text begins with 'Vocalist June Bisantz pays tribute to the singing of legendary trumpeter/vocalist Chet Baker on this collection of standards associated with him. Along with collaborators pianist Alex Nakhimovsky and guitarist Norman Johnson (plus a number of other musicians), the group achieves its goal by emulation rather than imitation. Bisantz captures Baker's soft, intimate vocal sound, the key to making the project work. It's a vocal style completely out of step with current "diva" practice: seemingly almost casual, with no overt technical or emotional display.' The text continues with details about the arrangements, the CD package, track listing, personnel, record label, and style. At the bottom of the article, there is a SoundCloud player for the track 'June Bisantz I Get Along Without You Very Well'.

“Bisantz captures Baker’s soft, intimate vocal sound, the key to making the project work.”




Chet Baker's intimate vocals have influenced countless jazz artists, **June Bisantz** among them. In fact, the Connecticut-based singer follows *Let's Fall in Love*, her 2006 Chet Baker tribute album, with the self-released *It's Always You: June Bisantz Sings Chet Baker Vol. 2*. Bisantz keeps the proceedings appropriately hushed, her singing — which, many have noted, resembles that of Phoebe Snow — sensitively shaded by pianist Alex Nakhimovsky, guitarist Norman Johnson, bassist Matt Dwonszyk and drummer Ben Bellillo.

June delivers shivers with an intonation that bears the glint of moonlit melancholy, but hardly lacks for warmth — particularly when she's accompanied by just Nakhimovsky and Johnson, or solely by the guitarist or when she goes it alone as she does on an a capella read of "Spring Is Here". Bisantz' horn-like phrasing floats atop the quartet's sterling accompaniment on "It's Always You".

Jazziz Magazine
Spring 2016 | Art for your Ears

Disc 1

1. David Arner/Babea Hughes Quintet "Tiger" from the album *Live at Montreux*
2. Earl Swenson "Love Call" from the album *Harold*
3. Chris Standring "Passion Blues" from the album *See*
4. Elena Terebushko "Cadenza (Chet's Tune)" from the album *A Time for Love*
5. June Bisantz "It's Always You" from the album *It's Always You*
6. Hilda Vittori Quartet "In Search of Wonder" from the album *In Search of Wonder*
7. Fred Frith with Charlie Fambro and Tony Scherr "While Away" from the album *Soundworks*
8. Enrico Pieraccini "Aria (Bisantz's Tune)" from the album *Take From the Unconnected*
9. Barney Kessel "Making Joseph's Coffee" from the album *Beats*
10. Christian Wallum "Looking Back" from the album *Player in Sound*
11. Virginia Schenk "Through Away" from the album *Interior Nations*
12. Joe Clayton "Yes, Kelly's House" from the album *Long Journey*
13. Mike Matheny "Home" from the album *Needle for the Road*

Disc 2

1. Ken Foner "Good Start" from the album *Standing Tall*
2. Eugenio Jensen "I'm Alright" from the album *Chet Swingin'*
3. Ray Carr "Don't Cross the Line" from the album *Rebirth of the Blues*
4. Eric Montgomery "High in Control" from the album *In the Beginning*
5. Letitia Gaskie "Back to Back" from the album *Blue Monday*
6. Freddie Hendrix "On the Edge" from the album *Jersey Girl*
7. Chester Thompson "Lullaby" from the album *Simple Times*
8. Michael Carr "In the Mood" from the album *See*
9. Bobby Aspin "The Pursuit" from the album *Days in the Light*
10. National Jazz Ensemble "Thruway" from the album *National Jazz Ensemble Featuring Gary Mulgrew*
11. David Goss and the Pro-Wee Pops "Angeles" from the album *Chet Under the Moon*
12. Scott Dubois "I'm a Little" from the album *Winter Light*
13. Brian Kubacki "When You Know the Sun" from the album *When You Know the Sun*

JAZZIZ On Disc 2 is a CD collection of music, quoted by JAZZIZ and includes artists of the past, present and future, bundled in the subscriber copies of the print editions of JAZZIZ Magazine. For more information regarding this and more than 100 other JAZZIZ compilations available for purchase, go to www.jazziz.com.

jazziz spring 2016 43

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June delivers shivers with an intonation that bears the glint of moonlit melancholy, but hardly lacks for warmth — particularly when she's accompanied by just Nakhimovsky and Johnson, or solely by the guitarist or when she goes it alone as she does on an a capella read of "Spring Is Here". Bisantz' horn-like phrasing floats atop the quartet's sterling accompaniment on "It's Always You".

Jazziz Magazine
Spring 2016 | Art for your Ears

"June Bisantz' smooth seductive voice is infectious. Her breathy, soft, trilly voice works well with the interaction of the flugelhorn. The entire album is a gem. Bisantz' voice is simply so catching that the album will leave you wanting to hear more."

Jazziz Magazine
Michael Faigen

“June masterfully recreates the soft, lyrical, very intimate singing style of Baker. Her pure, beautiful voice with expressive intonations envelops the listener and immerses one in an imaginary jazz club atmosphere...”

I attribute the highest praise to Nakhimovsky's piano in his duet with June, “Born to Be Blue.” Also memorable are “Forgetful” and “You're Mine You”, duets with the sensual guitar of Norman Johnson. Trumpeter Gabor Viragh faced a particular challenge - playing in the style of Chet Baker is not easy. However, the sound of his horn in “Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye” is beyond praise.

Nevertheless, the spectacular point of the album is the last song, June Bisantz without accompaniment.

Her performance of Rodgers-Hart's “Spring Is Here” is like a signature on a new portrait of a remarkable musician, a portrait June and her colleagues have created with “It's Always You”.

jazzquad.ru

Leonid Auskern

JAZZQUAD
INTERNATIONAL

Nestor media

THE LEGENDARY CHET BAKER'S HORN SOUNDS ALMOST LIKE A HUMAN VOICE. BAKER'S UNIQUE SINGING VOICE IS REMEMBERED BY JAZZ FANS AND STILL EXCITES THE IMAGINATION. THE CULT OF CHET BAKER IS ALIVE, AND JUNE BISANTZ IS AMONG THOSE WHO MAKE SURE IT CONTINUES TO LIVE.



June Bisantz is a vocalist and master of Visual Arts from Connecticut - an accomplished musician with a solid jazz background. She has performed with Steve Swallow, Mike Stern, Lou Soloff, Bob Moses. In 2006 Bisantz released *Let's Fall in Love*, based on the vocal repertoire of Chet Baker, which got good press and recognition from jazz lovers. After the release of this CD, June made a successful concert tour in Japan. And now, nine years later, a new Chet Baker project: *It's Always You: June Bisantz Sings Chet Baker, Vol.2*.

The collection of 12 songs, include popular, well-known tunes from Baker's repertoire, along with rare, seldom sung songs, like Chet's own composition from his "Italian period", *So Che Ti Perdero*.

Baker's voice, as you know, was high in timbre, and maybe that's why June's singing seems so close to the original. June masterfully recreates the soft, lyrical, very intimate singing style of Baker. Her pure, beautiful voice with expressive intonations envelops the listener and immerses one in an imaginary jazz club atmosphere - an atmosphere which is especially advantageous for this music.

Bisantz created *It's Always You* with the same group of musicians who participated in the recording of her first Baker-based album. And here, almost everyone deserves the warmest praise. Alex Nakhimovsky plays a dual role in the creation of this album as both pianist and arranger. I attribute the highest praise to his piano in his duet with June, *Born to Be Blue*. Also memorable are *Forgetful* and *You're Mine You*, duets with the sensual guitar of Norman Johnson. Trumpeter Gabor Viragh faced a particular challenge - playing in the style of Chet Baker is not easy. However, the sound of his horn in *Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye* is beyond praise.

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Leonid Auskern
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<http://jazzquad.ru/index.php?act=PRODUCT&amid=4109>

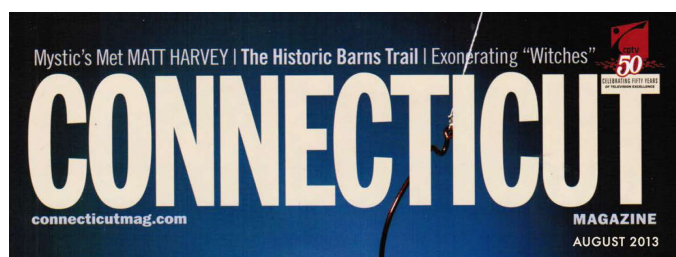
recent REVIEWS

"The Litchfield Jazz Festival will celebrate its 18th season at the Goshen Fairgrounds, August 9-11. Singer June Bisantz, also a visual artist, known for her public art installations, performs a tribute to trumpeter and vocalist Chet Baker on Sunday.

Bisantz just may be the breakout artist of the festival. Artistic director Vita Muir discovered her last year.

"I took myself over to Dan Blow's Music @Jap-analia series in Hartford to see what all the fuss was about – and fell in love with her voice and the project" says Muir.

*Connecticut Magazine
CPR*



| this month | music

Litchfield Jazz Fest

Jazz greats and up-and-comers let it rip in Goshen—if it's jazz you're looking for, you're in the right place.

The Litchfield Jazz Festival will celebrate its 18th season at the Goshen Fairgrounds, Aug. 9-11. After a three-year stint at The Kent School, the festival returned to its roots last summer, and got its groove back.

A stellar lineup includes both seasoned and emerging artists. Opening the show, Emmet Cohen, the 22-year-old pianist and Litchfield Jazz Camp alum who recently placed third in the Thelonius Monk Piano Competition. After that featured headliner Strings Attached—an unlikely collaboration between jazz violinist Aaron Weinstein and his trio and Broadway diva Christine Ebersole—takes over.

Saturday's highlights are just as hot: Flamenco guitarist Val Ramos and his ensemble will perform Rumba Flamenco, and iconic bassist Avery Sharpe brings his Gospel Explosion & Sacred Songs featuring Yoron Israel and Onaje Allan Gumbs. The explosive Gary Smulyan's Baritone Summit follows, and jazz master Ed-die Palmieri and his Latin Jazz Band end the set.

Singer June Bisantz (right, also a visual artist known for her public art installations), performs a tribute to trumpeter and vocalist Chet Baker on Sunday. Artistic director Vita Muir discovered her last year.



"I took myself over to Dan Blow's Music@Jap-analia series in Hartford to see what all the fuss was about—and fell in love with the voice and the program," says Muir. Bisantz recently released *Let's Fall in Love*, an album inspired by Baker. Litchfield Jazz Camp director and saxophonist, Don Braden also takes the stage with his quartet, which includes pianist Geri Allen, Avery Sharpe and Alvin Atkinson. And The Vincent Herring-Eric Alexander Quintet brings "In the Spirit of Coltrane and Cannonball," a tribute to John Coltrane and Cannonball Adderley. A Latin dance party closes the festivities—Papa Viquez Mighty Pirates Troubadours do the honors. Advance tickets \$50 tent, \$30 lawn; Friday gala \$150 to \$500, multi-day passes available.

LITCHFIELD JAZZ FESTIVAL
AUG. 9-11 | GOSHEN FAIRGROUNDS
860/361-6285, litchfieldjazzfest.com



June Bisantz & Alex Nakhimovsky

“Bisantz leaves her own pale-moon, feminine grooves on the melodies letting the instrumentalists follow that well-worn path with special highlights along the way, gently coaxing out what was meant to be.

Her vocals are soft, but embed the lyrics themselves with a deep resonant tonality, a full-bodied residue that melts the words until there is just a groan in the aftermath of emotional collapse, helplessness in “Your’e Mine You”, raw, self-conscious need on “I Don’t Stand a Ghost of a Chance”, containment in longing for the Disney-esque “My Ideal”, a ballet music box of a cover.

There is just enough of a strum of a light guitar, hand in hand with Bisantz’ light, lifting vocals until the bare essence of a fan’s view of Chet Baker is all you hear.”

AXS Jazz Examiner
Carol Banks Weber

Life lived live!

June Bisantz immortalizes Chet Baker’s other love songs in ‘It’s Always You’

By Carol Banks Weber | AXS Contributor | Feb 23, 2016 | 1 day ago

Chet Baker is one of those mythic figures in jazz that either inspires total devotion or total revulsion. The late jazz trumpeter and vocalist put “My Funny Valentine” on the map at the height of his career in 1959. He left this earth with a bang in 1998 at the still tender age of 59, head smashed in, sprawled on the street below an Amsterdam hotel, where authorities would sift through his heroin and cocaine stash. His legacy as a musical wunderkind with movie star looks and a nasty drug habit would spark followers for generations.

Known in those early times as the James Dean of jazz, actual movie stars would come to see him play throughout the West Coast. Jazz stars of a certain stature, like Miles Davis and Stan Getz, didn’t care much for Baker, or he for them. The guy soon developed a bad reputation as a junkie, philanderer, wife beater, and a lot worse. But for many hip to a new, West Coast sound, he seemed tailor-made to lead the revolution, with a tone and a groove so pure, spare, and willowy as to cause hearts to swoon.

The inspired female vocalists of their day, then and now, often improve on the subject matter in their Chet Baker covers. They seem to add the romantic longing and poetic beauty they hear in his music, even those spare vocals.

June Bisantz is one of those vocalists. She’s such an admirer of Baker’s music that she’s put out two records in tribute, *Let’s Fall in Love* from 2005 and most recently, the self-produced *It’s Always You*, Vol. 2.

It’s Always You features 12 more of Baker’s songs, including the favorites (“I Get Along Without You Very Well,” “My Ideal,” “Ev’ry Time We Say Goodbye,” “I Don’t Stand A Ghost Of A Chance”) and lesser-known gems (“So Che Ti Perdero,” “You’re Mine You,” “Everything Depends On You”). Baker wrote “So Che Ti Perdero (I Know That I’ll Lose You)” while spending time in Italy.

Vol. 2 of the tribute albums also features pianist/arranger Alex Nakhimovsky and guitarist/recording/mastering Norman Johnson, along with other musicians for different tracks. Other musicians visit with bass (Matt Dwonszyk), drums (Ben Bellilo), cojón/shaker (Kan Yanabe), viola (Katalin Viragh), violin/viola (Jaroslav Lis), cello (Eric Dahlin), and trumpet/flugelhorn (Gabor Viragh).

Befitting a Chet Baker collection and that depleted, defeated Chet Baker style, Bisantz leaves well enough alone on the tried-and-true tracks. She only leaves her own pale-moon, feminine grooves on the melodies, letting the instrumentalists follow that well-worn path with special highlights along the way, gently coaxing out what was meant to be.

Her vocals are soft, but embed the lyrics themselves with a deep, resonant tonality, a full-bodied residue that melts the words until there is just a groan in the aftermath of emotional collapse: helplessness in “You’re Mine You,” raw, self-conscious need on “I Don’t Stand A Ghost Of A Chance,” contentment in longing for the Disney-esque “My Ideal,” a ballet music box of a cover.

The instrumentalists on this record hold back too. There is just enough of a strum of a light guitar, hand in hand with Bisantz’s light, lifting vocals, until the bare essence of a fan’s view of Chet Baker is all you hear.

The faint illusion is very clear, all the way up to the album cover devised by visual artist Bisantz. There she is in the foreground, wearing shades and looking like Sia, as a much younger, more innocent-looking Chet Baker is superimposed in the background, trumpet in hand, gazing forlornly off into the distance, away from her, the camera, the entire world.

“Bisantz leaves her own pale-moon, feminine grooves on the melodies ... with light, lifting vocals until the bare essence of a fan’s view of Chet Baker is all you hear.”

recent REVIEWS



June Bisantz, Litchfield Jazz Festival, Goshen, CT

Bisantz started the Chet Baker Project a few years ago, and the same musicians have been with her since the inception. Bisantz said "Chet Baker really gets into your heart and soul. Whatever happened in his checkered life, his musicianship outlasts it all".

Included in the set were "Let's Fall in Love", "It's Always You", "Born to be Blue", "It Could Happen to You", "There Will Never Be Another You" and "Let's Get Lost". Bisantz, who is also an accomplished visual artist, dedicated "Imagination" to all the dreamers out there. She finished her superb set with "Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye."

Jazz Police

Sheila Horne Mason

18th Annual Litchfield Jazz Festival

"Vocalist June Bisantz looked like an updated mod transplant from London's swinging 60s in a geometric A-line dress and sunglasses.

Her voice and manner were as hip as her look: she sang like someone who has been places and done things."



Jazz Police



June Bisantz

Written by Sheila Horne Mason
Photographs by Kevin R. Mason
Thursday, 10 October 2013

The 2013 Litchfield Jazz Festival

Litchfield Jazz Festival celebrated its 18th anniversary, August 9-11, 2013 at Goshen Fairgrounds in Connecticut.

the Chet Baker Project with June Bisantz

Vocalist June Bisantz looked like an updated mod transplant from London's swinging 60s in a geometric A-line dress and sunglasses. Her voice and manner were as hip as her look; she sang like someone who has been places and done things. The talented instrumentalists were pianist/arranger Alex Nakhimovsky, guitarist Norman Johnson, trumpeter Gabor Viragh, bassist Matt Dwonszyk and drummer Ben Bilello.

Bisantz started the Chet Baker Project a few years ago, and the same musicians have been with her since the inception. Bisantz said, "Chet Baker really gets into your heart and soul. Whatever happened in his checkered life, his musicianship outlasts it all."

Included in the set were "Let's Fall in Love", "It's Always You", "Born to Be Blue", "It Could Happen to You", "There Will Never Be Another You", and "Let's Get Lost". Next was a delicious medley of "Like Someone in Love" and "I've Never Been in Love Before", followed by "You've Been Forgetful" as a gorgeous duet with Norman Johnson. She continued with "My Ideal", which she said could be a cautionary tale about online dating. Bisantz, who is also an accomplished visual artist, dedicated "Imagination" to all the dreamers out there. She finished her superb set with "Every Time We Say Goodbye".

"Chet Baker's lyrical trumpet and soft vocal style epitomized the cool jazz sound emanating from the West Coast in the 1950s. Singer June Bisantz channels that feeling on "It's Always You", the second CD inspired by Baker's sound.

Her smoky voice and artful sense of time are showcased as she covers a dozen tunes associated with Chet Baker. Bisantz gets stellar support from pianist Alex Nakhiovsky and guitarist Norman Johnson. She teams with both on Everything Depends on You and Born to Be Blue, and with just Johnson on Forgetful, "You're Mine You" and "The Night we Called it a Day". Gaobr Viragh adds Baker-like trumpet accompaniment on four tracks, most notably "My Ideal" and the wistful "Evr'y Time We Say Goodbye". Bisantz closes things out with a brief a capella take on "Spring is Here".

Quite fittingly for her project, she dedicated the title track to Baker."

Jazz Notes
Ken Franckling

Ken Franckling's Jazz Notes

Tuesday, December 22, 2015

CDs of Note - Short Takes

Taking a look at new CDs by Darren Barrett, June Bisantz, Kirsten Edkins, Scott Hamilton and Jeff Hamilton, and JAMBa...

June Bisantz, *It's Always You* (self-produced)

Chet Baker's lyrical trumpet and soft vocal style epitomized the cool jazz sound emanating from the West Coast in the 1950s. Singer June Bisantz channels that feeling on *It's Always You*, the second CD inspired by Baker's sound. Her smoky voice and artful sense of time are showcased as she covers a dozen tunes associated with Baker. Bisantz gets stellar support from pianist Alex Nakhimovsky and guitarist Norman Johnson. She teams with both on "Everything Depends on You" and "Born to Be Blue," and with just Johnson on "Forgetful," "You're Mine, You," and "The Night We Called It a Day." Gabor Viragh adds Baker-like trumpet accompaniment on four tracks, most notably "My Ideal" and the wistful "Evr'y Time We Say Goodbye." Bisantz closes things out with a brief a capella take on "Spring is Here." Quite fittingly for her project, she dedicated the title track to Baker.



*"Cool and still full
of emotion –
just like Chet Baker"*

Jazz Podium Magazine, Germany
Hans Kittlaus



An offering by June Bisantz is the album "It's always You", her second homage to Chet Baker after "Let's Fall in Love" from 2006. With a gentle voice she reminds us of the fragile world of the legendary trumpeter. The classically trained, Russian-born pianist Alex Nakhimovsky is responsible for the arrangements that together with Guitarist Norman Johnson and other musicians create a sensitive accompaniment. On "So Che Ti Perdero", a juke-box standard in this country at the beginning of the 1960s, the strings provide a breath of Ennio Morricone's original. These tracks are a little sweeter than Chet's - but you can't reach his vulnerability - It's of another world.

Ulrich Roth
6/15 Jazz Podium Magazine



Zweite Hommage an Chet Baker: June Bisantz

*"Cool and still
full of emotion -
just like Chet Baker"*

Hans-Bernard Kittlaus
Jazz Podium Magazine,
Germany

recent REVIEWS

Talkin' Broadway Sound Advice Schedule of New & Upcoming CD, DVD & Book Releases

UNDER THE RADAR - <http://www.talkinbroadway.com>

LET'S FALL IN LOVE: JUNE BISANTZ SINGS CHET BAKER _*Toodlee-e Records*

Any album saluting the wonderful jazz trumpeter and sometime singer Chet Baker gets my attention and my ear. It's a pretty safe bet you'll start with top-drawer and emotional material in any case, as he favored well-crafted, plaintive melodies and lyrics. Once again, I bring you good news: this is a keeper.

June Bisantz Evans works primarily as a visual artist, although in my eclectic collection of old vinyl, I have some 1980s recordings under the group name "Mister Spats" with June as the lead vocalist and co-writer of the jazzy songs. She's made a few recordings, including a solo album 10 years ago. This new CD revisits some standards with Baker's low-key, languid style in mind, but comes across as just plain warm rather than warmed-over. What's been included in June's tunes? Not the expected Chet signature "Let's Get Lost," and the album title doesn't mean you get the standard "Let's Fall In Love" either (it refers to the key line in the opener "For Heaven's Sake"). There are 12 tracks, all strong entries. Classics such as a slow, reflective "Come Rain Or Come Shine," shorn of its intrinsic determination, are attractive in their own way. Another Broadway number is "I've Never Been In Love Before" from *Guys And Dolls* which also takes its time but is worth the time it takes: it's drenched in romance. Two show tunes from Rodgers and Hart, "My Funny Valentine" and "Blue Room," also make for slo-mo happy moods. June evokes Chet Baker's small voice and tender, thoughtful phrasing and is aided by the skilled Gabor Viragh standing in as the trumpet and fluegelhorn man.

Sorrow and fragility do not overwhelm the atmosphere even though they linger at the edges. Although she sounds quite sensitive and thoughtful, June's timbre conjures up a person with more emotional distance and perspective. In fact, there's an older-but-wiser maternal presence, a bit in the later Rosemary Clooney mold. Her timbre also reminds me of Nancy Wilson, even more so in the Mister Spats work where she used more voice.

In preparing to write this comparison study, I also went back and re-listened to some Chet Baker vocals I hadn't heard for a while. It was a refreshing refresher course, but confirmed that this is not a knockoff copy nor a radical departure. The essence is there, but there's some freshness, too. The good taste and subtle, skilled playing from the band members here should not be underestimated. The players are to be commended. In addition to the aforementioned brass player, pianist Alex Nakhimovsky is quite wonderful and gets ample opportunity to be heard and add to the classy environment. Guitarist Norman Johnson, drummer Greg Caputo and bass player Genevieve Rose complete a pleasing picture.

Rob Lester

*"I bring you
good news:
this is a keeper."*

Under The Radar: June Bisantz Sings Chet Baker

"I bring you good news: this is a keeper.

June evokes Chet Baker's small voice and tender, thoughtful phrasing and is aided by the skilled Gabor Viragh standing in as the trumpet and fluegelhorn man.

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Sound Advice | Talking Broadway
Rob Lester

RADIO reviews



June Bisantz, Body & Soul, Tokyo, Japan

"June you are an angel. I love Chet Baker and your renditions on this album are so unique and yet also so Chet. They take me straight to heaven. My listeners love it. Thank you and be assured that you now have fans in Queensland, Australia."

Helen Jarroe, Cairns FM89.1 Australia

"Bisantz' voice is throaty, strong, quiet: her timing is surprising, velvety and bright."

Ann Porotti, WTJU, Virginia, USA

"An impressive offering from June Bisantz and enviable musicians. It's got the Chet Baker cool - emotionally connecting on every level."

Helen Simons, The JazzXpress Caravan, Australia Jazz 4Zzz102.1 FM

"The soothing vocals and beautiful jazz arrangements compliment this mesmerising vocal. Beautiful!"

Parko Parkinson QBN FM 96.7 Australia

"I was in awe when I heard her voice; especially carrying Chet's ballads. You can bet that I will keep my ear closely tuned in for her from now on."

Charles Jones, Music Director, WSYC Shippensburg, PA

"June's voice is very captivating, relaxing and seductive. This CD has been one of the most requested to be played not only on the jazz programs but also on the mainstream music programs. It is really wonderful!"

Rafel Corbi Radio RPEM-FM Spain

"This CD is delicious! Great singing and very beautiful arrangements, played with great sensibility."

Bruno Pollacci, AnimaJAZZ, Italy

"June's clear strong vocals, combined with great musicianship, draws one into the smoky, comfortable, night clubs of yesteryear. This is not only an album for Chet Baker fans, but for all fans of Jazz whatever their age. Sit back and be drawn in by the ambience of it all."

Tony Bates Highlands 100.7FM Australia

"The review can only be; Chet should be proud of her, a great CD with a fantastic performance on those fine Baker songs!"

Joost van Steen Alphen Stad FM Netherlands

"Beautiful voice. June kept me captivated through the WHOLE album. The band was AMAZING as well. Overall it's an 11 out of 10!! Truly GREAT!"

Jason (Xu) Marzetti DJSR 88.5 Canada

radio REVIEWS



June Bisantz & Alex Nakhimovsky Tokyo, Japan

"To say this is good is like saying that Ella Fitzgerald is just an OK singer. June has a voice God gives a very few. Move over Ella, Sarah & Diana, a new voice has emerged."

Barry Rosen, WHCJ-FM, Georgia, USA

"Without doubt the best release received this year from any source. Great vocals with impressive backing.

Congratulations to all involved."

Martin Wright Radio 3ZZZ, Melbourne, Australia

contact | **BOOKING** *info*

contact & booking

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June Bisantz, Poli Club, Waterbury Palace Theater, CT
Alex Nakhimovsky, piano | *Norman Johnson, guitar* | *Matt Dwoszyk, bass* | *Ed Fast, drums*