

JUNE BISANTZ & ALEX NAKHIMOVSKY



junebisantz.com/music • alexnakhimovsky.com

BIOS

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, the Connecticut Office of the Arts has recently given Ms. Bisantz a 2025 Artistic Excellence Fellowship Award for her work in both visual art and music.

Bisantz has toured internationally, and performed and recorded 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, JazzQuad.Ru, 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 & 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 and Songwriting, a 2024 *World Songwriting Award* for Best Jazz Song and a 2024 *Clouzine International Music Award* for best Latin Pop Album. Since then, both her 2022 and 2023 releases, *7 Shades of Snow* and *It's Been A Long, Long Time*, have received *Global Music Awards* in the *Female Vocalist* and *Americana* categories. She is currently working with producer David West on a project dedicated to the vocal work of Fred Astaire.

Ms. Bisantz is Professor Emeritus of Art & Design at Eastern Connecticut State University who has exhibited her visual art work in galleries, museums and public spaces throughout the United States. She designs and produces publicity and album artwork for her own projects and those of many other musicians

Listen: <https://open.spotify.com/artist/70bdmSCIFAM2dJWP7v9tjM>

Photos & Video: <https://www.junebisantz.com/photos>

Reviews: <https://www.junebisantz.com/reviews>

ALEX NAKHIMOVSKY



Award-winning pianist ALEX NAKHIMOVSKY enjoys a versatile career as a performer, composer, recording artist, producer and educator.

Alex's musical accomplishments as a Jazz and Classical artist include musical direction and arranging as well as solo and ensemble performances. He has toured throughout the United States, Russia, Japan and Israel, performing with Jazz legends Benny Golson, Jackie McLean, Jimmy Cobb, Valery Ponomarev, Sheila Jordan, Curtis Fuller, Victor Bailey and Grammy nominated artists Bill Evans, Carla Cook, René Marie and Jazzmeia Horn. Nakhimovsky's discography includes releases from the United States, Europe and Asia. In 2005, he was featured with Japan's New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra on An American in Paris a Universal Label release; and later performed in Japan's major concert halls with the orchestra to promote the recording.

Nakhimovsky's impressive classical repertoire, which spans the gamut from Chopin to Gershwin, has led to performances on concert stages including Carnegie Hall (2007) and Steinway Hall (2000) in New York City. In addition to his multi-level career as a performer, recording artist and concert producer, Alex accompanies and arranges for notable singers from a wide range of musical genres, leading to international performances throughout the USA, Europe, Asia and Israel. Recent collaborations include concerts with Metropolitan bass Mikhail Svetlov; cellist Sergey Antonov, gold medal winner of the Tchaikovsky international competition; celebrated arranger and fadolinist Lev Zhurbin; rising opera star Zhanna Alkhazova and others. Since January of 2023 Alex has also worked as pianist and music director for well known actor and singer Robert Davi, performing the Sinatra song book. His most recent composition, Suite 2022, premiered in June, 2022 with the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra and jazz trio, featuring violinist Brunilda Myftaraj. The piece continues to be performed throughout the United States.

In an ongoing collaboration, Nakhimovsky has been pianist, music director and arranger for jazz vocalist/lyricist June Bisantz. Bisantz & Nakhimovsky have recorded, performed and toured together since 2005 including multiple tours of Asia. Bisantz & Nakhimovsky have received three international music awards for their co-written project, Love's Tango: a Global Music Award, 2019, Lyrics and Songwriting; a World Songwriting Award, 2024, Best Jazz Song Spring 2024; and a Clouzine International Music Award, Fall 2024, Best Latin Pop Album. Prior to this successful collaboration, Nakhimovsky worked with Bisantz as music director, pianist and arranger, to create a two-volume tribute to the vocal work of the legendary Chet Baker.

MATT DWONSZYK



Matt Dwonszyk is a Connecticut-born, New York-based, bassist, composer, arranger, bandleader and educator.

Dwonszyk has shared the bandstand with trumpeter Eddie Henderson; saxophonist Bennie Wallace; trombonist Steve Davis; pianists George Cables, Harold Mabern, Larry Willis, and Joey Alexander; and vocalist Jazzmeia Horn, among many others. He can regularly be found with drummer Jonathan Barber's Vision Ahead, trios by pianist Jon Davis and saxophonist Julieta Eugenio, and saxophonist Sarah Hanahan's quartet. He also leads his namesake ensemble, the Dwonztet.

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Dwonszyk began playing the electric bass at age eleven. At the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts High School, he switched to upright bass, thereby embarking on his journey into the heart of jazz. He then attended the Jackie McLean-founded Artists Collective after-school program, under the direction of the sax legend's son, René.

After graduating with a Bachelor's of Music in Jazz Studies from UHart, Dwonszyk obtained a Master's of Music at SUNY Purchase College in New York, where he studied with professors in trumpeter Jon Faddis, guitarist John Abercrombie, and bassists Todd Coolman and Doug Weiss.

In 2015, Dwonszyk was accepted into the Bositye Lowery Jazz Living Residency for his original compositions and was awarded in DownBeat Magazine for his arrangement of "What A Wonderful World." In 2018 — the year he released his debut album, *Wonderful World* — Dwonszyk toured Russia as part of the Rainy Days Jazz Festival. In 2019, and toured through Canada with the Oleg Butman Trio and in 2020 with Jonathan Barber and Vision Ahead through the West Coast.

He released 2022's *A Year and a Day*, recorded with his versatile, namesake ensemble, the Dwonztet. That year, with the Julieta Eugenio Trio, Dwonszyk won the 2022 DC JazzPrix Competition at the Washington, DC Jazz Festival.

True to his roots, Dwonszyk's latest album was 2024's *Donny Time: The Music of Don DePalma*, an album-length tribute to Hartford's late, great pianist — with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the DePalma Roy Scholarship. That year, Dwonszyk toured Europe with Barber, performing in London; Paris; and Muri, Switzerland — in the former, at the legendary Ronnie Scott's Club. He also performed in Mexico City and Guadalajara with Jazz at Lincoln Center's New York Jazz All Stars — produced by DeQuinta Producciones, and featuring drummer Joe Farnsworth, pianist Emmet Cohen, and Hanahan.

In 2025, Dwonszyk will perform and record in Buenos Aires, Argentina; his next album, live at the Side Door Jazz Club, will release in the fall. With his Dwonztet, he will perform on July 26th at the Litchfield Jazz Festival. He will also be teaching jazz bass at Amherst College.



alex
NAKHIMOVSKY
alexnakhimovsky.com



june
BISANTZ
junebisantz.com/music



World Songwriting
Award 2024



Clouzine International
Music Award 2024



Global Music
Award 2024

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SELECTED REVIEWS BISANTZ & NAKHIMOVSKY:

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"Rich toned vocalist June Bisantz, and classy pianist Alex Nakhimovsky lead a 4 member rhythm team, 3 member string section and horn section respectively through a breezy collection of irresistible sambas and beyond...A strong outing with new South American sounds."

Jazz Weekly

George W. Harris

"A delightful collection of original music all pinioned in the Latin genre and offering appreciably well-hewn lyrics and melodies about love, with a focus on musicality. Of note is the effortless sophistication of Nakhimovsky's compositional writing... his arranging and writing skills, coupled with Bisantz well-crafted lyrics is inspired. At times their writing is so polished it's easy to forget how harmonically complex these tunes really are, as you find yourself swept away by the emotions of the songs."

All About Vocals

J. Pepper

"June Bisantz and Alex Nakhimovsky, deliver a work that combines soft, melodic, jazz themes with a Rachmaninoff inspired string section - a magnificent work...Put this on and get lost in romance."

Audiophile

Paul Wilson

"June Bisantz is a subtle and quietly swinging singer with a soft and cool-toned voice. Her soothing, yet heated vocals, the melodic material, and the high musicianship make Love's Tango a memorable listening experience."

LA Jazz Scene

Scott Yanow

"Co-leaders June Bisantz, a lauded vocalist and pianist Alex Nakhimovsky have come together to create a decisively Latin flavored casting of original compositions that are inventive as well as artistic, while still maintaining a deeply musical vehicle. Bisantz has an easy-going alto style with a low burn sensuality that percolates with assuredness and sophistication. Nakhimovsky is genius with his colorizations of the melodies. You can hear the delicacy and maturity within his note choices.

Delightfully witty lyrics, paired with music that enlivens the senses and lightens your heart. An engaging listen from start to finish, Love's Tango is a recording of urbanity and splendor. That's the short of it!"

Staccatofy

Adjoran Horvat



*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*



JAZZIZ
art for your ears

June Bisantz
It's Always You

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. The vocalist 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 cappella* read of "Spring Is Here." Bisantz's horn-like phrasing floats atop the quartet's sterling accompaniment on "It's Always You," our selection. The track also features the Baker-like trumpet of Gabor Viragh and reminds listeners that the tribute was also a distinctively soulful horn player.

44 spring 2016 jazziz

"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.

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Jazziz Magazine

Spring 2016 | Art for your Ears

"June delivers shivers with an intonation that bears the glint of moonlit melancholy ..."

"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

“What sets this collaboration apart are the originals...There is a depth to these songs that goes beyond the standard songbook... the leaders have created refined originals that stand out as lasting pieces.”

*Jazz Sensibilities
Stamish Malcuss*

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HOME LATE

June Bisantz and Alex Nakhimovsky | Love's Tango



WRITTEN BY: ADMIN | MAY 18, 2019
by Stamish Malcuss



The collaboration of June Bisantz and Alex Nakhimovsky melds together two magnificently creative souls into a distinctly Latin tinged album titled *Love's Tango*. As one would expect the album is filled with bossa, samba and tango, but what this album offers is not the usual Brazilian songbook, it is adorned with original compositions by Bisantz and Nakhimovsky. Though they have recorded together in the past, *Love's Tango* signals their first writing collaboration of all originals together. They are joined by Norman Johnson on guitar; Matt Dwonatzky on bass; Strunilda Myftaraj on violin; Lu San on viola; Kathy Schiano on cello; Marcus Centola on accordion; John Mastroianni on flute, clarinet, sax; Jeff Holmes on trumpet/flugelhorn; Steve Davis on trombone and Ed Fast on drums, vibraphone & percussion. The result is an endearing listen that you will cherish for years to come.

The album kicks off with "This Reverie," its flavoring is reminiscent of Diana Krall's *The Look* album in 2001, that featured easy going, gentle bossas. What sets this collaboration between Bisantz and Nakhimovsky apart is their originals. Equally, Bisantz like Krall has an unassuming voice that is sweetly pleasing and Nakhimovsky's delicate touch is flawless, he has a stylistic beauty to his play that shimmers.

The album is not all bossa's and strings with sensual Latin guitar, on the title track "Love's Tango," a tune takes a distinctive Spanish overtone. Complete with castanets provided by Ed Fast, and the not often used accordion by Marcus Centola, the ensemble beautifully pays homage to the long tradition of tango. The beauty of the dance is immediately felt with the rhythms and lyrics. You are transported to the dance floor and relish in the reverence of the tango. Bisantz is once again simply delightful in her delivery, stylish with a hint of provocative sophistication, that simply fits the chic of the tune.

There is a depth to the songs on *Love's Tango* that goes beyond the standard songbook, the dual leaders have created refined originals that stand out as lasting pieces. This is a welcomed addition if anyone who enjoys a relaxing, yet slow burning listen with top-shelf performances. *Love's Tango* is a antidote to any long day. Relax, unwind and drink in the beauty of the *Love's Tango*.

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Jazz Weekly

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REVIEWS

June Bisantz & Alex Nakhimovsky: Love Tango

by [George W. Harris](#) • February 18, 2019 • [0 Comments](#)

Rich toned vocalist and classy pianist Alex Nakhimovsky lead a 4 member rhythm team, 3 member string section and horn section respectively through a breezy collection of irresistible sambas and beyond.

Romantic Brazilian pulses are delivered sweetly by Bisantz through a mix of samba and strings on "This Reverie, while Middle East percussion goes to South America on a peppy "Eleven Note Samba" and suave "It's You," the latter featuring some hip guitar work by Norman Johnson riding the surf of Matt Dwonszyk's bass. The strings give a rich parlor mood on "Prelude to a Wish" and crate an ocean form for Steve Davis' trombone on with Bisantz and Nakhumovsky in a sensuous mood for "Ocean Dreams." Some gypsy flavors take you to a campfire with violin and guitar sauntering with Bisantz on the celebratory title track whereas the co-leaders show that they can get into a restrained mood on the lovely and deliciously tender "A Wish That Came True." A strong outing with new South American sounds.



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*Jazz Weekly,
George W. Harris*

*“June Bisantz and Alex Nakhimovsky are equally skilled artists, who have both enjoyed vibrant careers. Bisantz discography was illuminated with the 2012 release of *It’s Always You*, a collection inspired by the vocal work of the legendary Chet Baker...Her latest release is a collaboration with jazz/classical pianist and composer Nakhimovsky titled, *Love’s Tango*. A delightful collection of original music all pinioned in the Latin genre and offering appreciably well-hewn lyrics and melodies about love, with a focal on musicality. A highlight track on the album is “11 Note Samba,” a fun and flirty tune that offers a celebratory sound...Bisantz has a soothing easy-going style about her singing, with darkly hued resonance that is rounded and curved with *savoir vivre*. The title track “*Love’s Tango*,” is a delectably exotic listen... A tango, as the title suggests, brought to life with castanets and the incisive dexterity of accordionist Marcus Centola. Of note is the effortless sophistication of Nakhimovsky’s compositional writing. Nakhimovsky’s arranging and writing skills, coupled with Bisantz well-crafted lyrics is inspired. At times their writing is so polished it’s easy to forget how harmonically complex and imbued these tunes really are, as you find yourself swept away by the emotions of the songs.”*

All About Vocals
J. Pepper



The screenshot shows a blog post on the website 'All About Vocals'. At the top left is the 'ALL ABOUT VOCALS' logo, and at the top right is the 'SINGERS' logo. Below the logos is a navigation bar with 'Home' and 'June Bisantz and Alex Nakhimovsky, Love's Tango'. The main title of the post is 'June Bisantz and Alex Nakhimovsky, Love's Tango', dated 'January 29, 2019', with an 'Editor' role. Below the title is a photograph of a man and a woman in a recording studio setting. Under the photo is the byline 'by J. Pepper'. To the left of the main text is a small thumbnail image of the album cover for 'Love's Tango'. The main text of the post is a review that matches the text on the left of the page. At the bottom of the post, there is a 'Share this:' section with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Google+.

“Nakhimovsky’s arranging and writing skills, coupled with Bisantz well-crafted lyrics is inspired”

recent **REVIEWS**

In my mind, the Tango is somehow a type of Latin based, or Samba based musical style. And okay, maybe some measure of jazz thrown in as well. Titles can be deceiving, however. In the latest release from June Bisantz and Alex Nakhimovsky, they deliver a work that combines soft, melodic, jazz themes with, a Rachmaninoff inspired string section and overall, a magnificent work. Make no mistake, this is a sweet, soft, Sunday morning, lazy breakfast type of music. Or a romantic evening at home.

Somehow, this duo, who has been writing and performing together since 2005, manages to combine Latin rhythms, jazz, classical, and soft, easy listening music into a group of seven songs that are sure to please.

Bisantz has a terrific voice and one that seems perfectly suited for this style of music. Nakhimovsky is a force on the piano and his skills are no less apparent than the vocal abilities of his partner. Put this on and get lost in romance.

“June Bisantz and Alex Nakhimovsky, deliver a work that combines soft, melodic, jazz themes with a Rachmaninoff inspired string section - a magnificent work... Put this on and get lost in romance.”

*Audiophile
Paul Wilson*

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New Music

By Paul Wilson | March 29, 2019 6:00 AM



June Bisantz & Alex Nakhimovsky - "Love's Tango" - EH2U

In my mind, musically, the Tango is somehow a type of Latin based, or Samba based musical style. And okay, maybe some measure of jazz thrown in as well. Titles can be deceiving, however. In the latest release from June Bisantz and Alex Nakhimovsky, they deliver a work that combines soft, melodic, jazz themes with, at times anyway, a Rachmaninoff inspired string section and overall, a magnificent work. Make no mistake, this is a sweet, soft, Sunday morning, lazy breakfast type of music. Or a romantic evening at home. Yet somehow, this duo, who has been writing and performing together since 2005, manages to combine Latin rhythms, jazz, classical, and soft, easy listening music into a group of seven songs that are sure to please. Bisantz has a terrific voice and one that seems perfectly suited for this style of music. Nakhimovsky is a force on the piano and his skills are no less apparent than the vocal abilities of his partner. Put this on and get lost in romance.



RECENT reviews

“From silky bossa nova arias to jamboree-style sambas, a compelling tango, and a steamy Rachmaninoff-influenced prelude, this recording revels in the joys of life, finding pleasure in the simple luxury of being surrounded by upbeat music.

The romantic lure of the swirling strings woven swiftly along “Prelude To a Wish” is the recording’s moment to pay homage to the classical composer Rachmaninoff. The tune is a garden bed of delightful sprigs, glimmering with an elegance that piques the audience’s attention.

Continuing to enchant the listener...

“Ocean Dreams” has a dreamy feel reminiscent of Antonio Carlos Jobim’s

“The Girl from Ipanema”...

Bisantz’ smooth voicing caresses the downy bossa nova swells... Love’s Tango is contained within the confines of the Latin-influenced spectrum but such restraints do not diminish its appeal. The music is lovely and Bisantz’s vocals...reel the listener into a peaceful state of being..”

*Jazz 2 Love
Susan Frances*

“This recording revels in the joys of life...”

jazz2love

A place to find all types of jazz-related music and artists.

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

Album Review: Love's Tango from June Bisantz & Alexander Nakhimovsky

Album: Love's Tango

Artist: June Bisantz & Alexander Nakhimovsky

Label: EH2U

Websites: <https://www.junebisantz.com>

<http://alexnakhimovsky.com>

Love's *Tango*'s repertoire is comprised of original jazz-inspired, Latin-induced melodies co-written by June Bisantz and Alexander Nakhimovsky. From silky bossa nova arias to jamboree-style sambas, a compelling tango, and a steamy Rachmaninoff-influenced prelude, the recording revels in the joys of life, finding pleasure in the simple luxury of being surrounded by upbeat music.



The romantic lure of the swirling strings woven swiftly along "Prelude To a Wish" is the recording's moment to pay homage to the classical composer Rachmaninoff. Performed by Brunilda Myftaraj on violin, Lu San on viola and Kathy Schiano on cello, the tune is a garden bed of delightful sprigs, glimmering with an elegance that piques the audience's attention.

The CD commences with the gently breezy vapors of "A Wish That Came True," catacomb by the wispy tendrils of Norman Johnson's guitar strings and twinkling vibrations emanating from the leisurely stroll of Nakhimovsky's keys. The island sway in the rhythm pulse of Ed Fast's drums and Matt Dwonszyk's bass has a hypnotic touch on the listener.

Continuing to enchant the listener, the title track is silhouette in Marcus Centola's slinky accordion whirls and the graceful flutter of Myftaraj's violin strings, branding the melody in a confluence of folkloric and sophisticated features. The tango rhythm bodes well with Bisantz's registration and vocal strides.

Shifting again into bossa nova terrain, "Ocean Dreams" has a dreamy feel reminiscent of Antonio Carlos Jobim's "The Girl from Ipanema." The island-tinged instrumentation whisks the listener to a serene plane as Bisantz's smooth voicing caresses the downy bossa nova swells. Meanwhile, a samba strut canvasses "It's You" in a festive mood, traversing into the willowy bossa nova emanations of "The Reverie."

The repertoire on *Love's Tango* is contained within the confines of the Latin-influenced spectrum but such restraints do not diminish its appeal. The music is lovely and Bisantz's vocals are evenly tempered, which reels the listener into a peaceful state of being.

recent REVIEWS

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Articulated Reviews

POP ROCK COUNTRY BLUES WORLD CLASSICAL JAZZ ELECTRONICA

JUNE BISANTZ & ALEX NAKHIMOVSKY, LOVE'S TANGO REVIEW

by Adorjan Horvat on January 14, 2019

JAZZ

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FULL REVIEW

June Bisantz & Alex Nakhimovsky, Love's Tango Review

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What is better than one creative mind, well two of course. Co-leaders June Bisantz, a lauded vocalist and pianist Alex Nakhimovsky have come together to create a decisively Latin flavored casting of original compositions that are inventive as well as artistic, while still maintaining a deeply musical vehicle. Bisantz has creativity in her bones, a Professor Emeritus of Art & Design at Eastern Connecticut State University her works have been exhibited in galleries, museums and public spaces throughout the United States is this unique purview that gives Bisantz her highly creative phrasing and refined style. Nakhimovsky is a seasoned professional in classical as well as jazz idioms. He has extensively toured the United States, Russia, Japan and Israel. Both artists have enjoyed fruitful careers and out of their joint love of writing *Love's Tango* was born. The co-leaders are joined by Norman Johnson – guitar; Matt Dwonszyk – bass; Brunilda Myftaraj – violin; Lu San – viola; Kathy Schiano – cello; Marcus Centola – accordion; John Mastroianni – flute, clarinet, saxophone; Jeff Holmes – trumpet/flugelhorn; Steve Davis – trombone; E Fast – drums, vibraphone and percussion.

Available on amazon

“Co-leaders June Bisantz, a lauded vocalist and pianist Alex Nakhimovsky have come together to create a decisively Latin flavored casting of original compositions that are inventive as well as artistic and deeply musical.

Bisantz has...a unique purview that gives us her highly creative phrasing and refined style. Nakhimovsky is a seasoned professional in classical as well as jazz idioms.

The instrumentation of Love's Tango is exotic and beautifully executed. The use of strings on selections like "This Reverie," "A Wish That Came True," and "Ocean Dreams," add a lush sonic-scape that reinforces the sultry moods of each tune. Whereas "11 Note Samba," and "Its' You," offer a lively easy going feel.

Bisantz has an easy-going alto style with a low burn sensuality that percolates with assuredness and sophistication...Nakhimovsky is genius with his colorizations of the melodies. Delightfully witty lyrics, paired with music that enlivens the senses and lightens your heart. An engaging listen from start to finish, Love's Tango is a recording of urbanity and splendor.

*Staccatofjy
Adorjan Horvat*

“Delightfully witty lyrics, paired with music that enlivens the senses and lightens your heart.”

“Love’s Tango is popping with sparkling melodies & outstanding performances.”

Sound In Review



The screenshot shows a web page for a review of the album 'Love's Tango' by June Bisantz & Alex Nakhimovsky. The page features a navigation bar with 'SIR JAZZ SOUND in REVIEW' and various genre tags. The main content area includes a video player with a play button, a sidebar with 'NOW READING' and 'CONTENTS' sections, and a large 'SIR JAZZ' logo. Below the video, there is a section titled 'June Bisantz & Alex Nakhimovsky: Loves's Tango Review' with a small image of the album cover. The text of the review is visible, discussing the album's Latin slant and the artists' backgrounds.

Together June Bisantz and Alex Nakhimovsky have collaborated a deliciously Latin slanted release titled Love’s Tango, that features melodies by Nakhimovsky and lyrics by Bisantz.

Bisantz has an entrancing voice, its deep and also opulently hued, with an alto tonality that adds to the sensuality of the lyrics, which she is fully committed to. Her lyric content is full of strong picturization and story lines that connect the listener to the journey. Often, I found myself checking the CD to see if it was a Latin standard, when indeed it was an original, as they all are.

A fine example is “A Wish That Came True,” Bisantz rings true on the bottom register notes, the melody is exotic and refreshingly airy at the same time. Another robustly rich tune is the percussion driven tune “It’s You.” Ed Fast is the featured percussionist on this tune, his effervescent rhythm is accented by the horn section and the nimble fingers of guitarist Norman Johnson.

Love’s Tango is popping with sparkling melodies and outstanding performances. A fine collaboration by two talented writers that equally stand up to the task when performing. Its certainly clear they have a winning sound and a recipe for songwriting that is scrumptious.

recent REVIEWS

The Vinyl Anachronist

Thursday, February 14, 2019

June Bisantz & Alex Nakhimovsky's Love's Tango



Marc Phillips

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from the Managing
Editor of The
Occasional
Magazine.
[View my complete
profile](#)

There's a happy little place in the music section of my brain where I really respond to tropical jazz, that smooth yet enormous sound that floats along with the tradewinds, that stuff made so popular in the '50s and '60s by people like Martin Denny and Henry Mancini. The perfect trigger for me, for this kind of connection, is Mancini's "Lush," which I'd never heard until I watched the 2000 film *Sexy Beatz* with the amazing Ben Kingsley. Or perhaps Annette Bening's character in *American Beauty* playing an old recording of "Bali Hai" during dinner also evokes that same sense of adventure, coupled with a supreme sense of being at rest while enjoying the spoils.

Singer June Bisantz and pianist Alex Nakhimovsky have toured together since 2005. They also love a lot of the same things--classical music, for instance, and Latin rhythms. The first few minutes of this new album is directed right at the heart of the world of tango, which shouldn't be a surprise, but you'll start to hear those same shifts in the music, toward Mancini and Denny, and that's when those emotional connections are made and it all sounds so lush and beautiful. Actually, it sounds Lush and Beautiful, because this is the type of music I think about when I hear those two words. Remember the old Calgon bubble bath commercials? Like that.



It's the classical training this duo shares--they both played violins as their first instrument--that really stretches out that gorgeous Tahitian sunset, the one that was filmed in Technicolor. Bisantz's voice is smooth, mellow and beckoning--by that last word I mean that she's calling out to you to pack your bags and come along. Nakhimovsky's piano is storic and provides that stability for the soloists to shine--Norman Johnson's guitar, winning horn and string sections.

and Ed Fast's amazing support on all sorts of percussion. The perspective can shift depending on Bisantz--it moves in close when she's singing, and then it pulls away and spreads out when she steps back to enjoy the solos.

Love's Tango really sails when all decks are on hand, and I promise to stop using nautical terms after that. But that's the essence of this music, the big string sections, the sound of musical notes skipping along the tops of waves, the feeling of that warm wind across your face. That's not a bad thing in the middle of winter. I warned you that that a lot of tango was coming this way, and it was going to be "a thing" in 2019. Now I'm just wondering if it's a seasonal thing, a way to comfort jazz fans and get them through the winter in one piece. I see no problem with that; it's working.

"There's a happy little place in the music section of my brain where I really respond to tropical jazz, that smooth yet enormous sound that floats along with the trade winds, that stuff made so popular in the '50s and '60s by people like Martin Denny and Henry Mancini...

Singer June Bisantz and pianist Alex Nakhimovsky love a lot of the same things--classical music, for instance, and Latin rhythms. The first few minutes of this new album is directed right at the heart of the world of tango... you'll start to hear those same shifts in the music, toward Mancini and Denny, and that's when those emotional connections are made and it all sounds so lush and beautiful. Actually, it sounds Lush and Beautiful, because this is the type of music I think about when I hear those two words...Bisantz's voice is smooth, mellow and beckoning--she's calling out to you to pack your bags and come along. Nakhimovsky's piano provides that stability for the soloists to shine. The perspective can shift depending on Bisantz--it moves in close when she's singing, and then it pulls away and spreads out when she steps back to enjoy the solos.

"..if it's a seasonal thing, a way to comfort jazz fans and get them through the winter in one piece...it's working."

*Vinyl Anachronist
Marc Phillips,
Managing Editor, the Occasional Magazine*

Love's Tango really sails when all decks are on hand - that's the essence of this music, the big string sections, the sound of musical notes skipping along the tops of waves, the feeling of that warm wind across your face. If it's a seasonal thing, a way to comfort jazz fans and get them through the winter in one piece - it's working.

radio REVIEWS



June Bisantz & Matt Dwonszyk, the Poli Club, Waterbury Palace Theater, Waterbury, CT

“LOVE IT ALL”

Bryant S LittleJohn - KISS108FM / JOY94.4FM / KIK94.5&88FM

“June Bisantz’s voice captures the vibe of balmy nights and twinkling lights. Love’s Tango is a perfect backdrop for summer romance.”

*Shelley Gummesson CFBX 92.5 FM - Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada
Jazz On The Rocks Radio Show*

“Beautiful, joyful & romantic - perfect for a summer day or evening!”

Scott Fugate - Soul and Jazz Radio - Staffordshire, UK

*“Excellent combination of Jazz & Bossa & Tango.
Miss June Bisantz shines with her beautiful voice.”*

Carlos Fernandez Pacin FM Urquiza 91.7MHZ - Argentina

“Love it !!!! Will be playing this!!”

Geoffrey Geoff FM - 88.6 FM Menton, France

*“A brilliant and stellar mix of music
WOW!”*

Jeff Moses WJMX-DB Smooth Jazz Boston Global Radio - USA

*“Love the diversity of styles here as well as June’s classic, very old school
vocals. A really great cd”*

Geoff Melton | The Music Korner Magazine - Gettysburg, PA, USA

“Just perfect for the sunset sessions on the beach in Cyprus”

Mark Humphries - BFBS Cyprus - 92.1 FM Akrotiri, Cyprus



June Bisantz & Alex Nakhimovsky, the Poli Club, Waterbury Palace Theater, Waterbury, CT



JAZZIZ
art for your ears

June Bisantz
Sings Chet Baker Vol. 2

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. The vocalist 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 cappella* read of "Spring Is Here." Bisantz's horn-like phrasing floats atop the quartet's sterling accompaniment on "It's Always You," our selection. The track also features the Baker-like trumpet of Gabor Viragh and reminds listeners that the tribute was also a distinctively soulful horn player.

44 spring 2016 jazziz

"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.

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Jazziz Magazine

Spring 2016 | Art for your Ears

"June delivers shivers with an intonation that bears the glint of moonlit melancholy ..."

"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

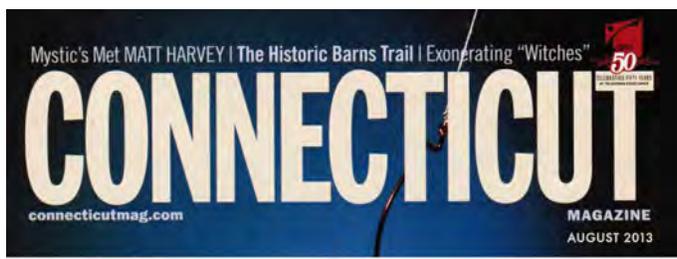
recent REVIEWS

“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 @Japanalia 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*



CONNECTICUT
connecticutmag.com
MAGAZINE
AUGUST 2013

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 Flamenca, and iconic bassist Avery Sharpe brings his Gospel Explosion & Sacred Songs featuring Yoreen Israel and Onaje Allan Gumbs. The explosive Cary Semich's Baritone Summit follows, and jazz master Eddie 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. 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@Japanalia 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 Alvan Akinson. 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—Papo Vizaquer's Mighty Pirates Troubadours do the honors. Advance tickets \$50. *Free. \$50 lawn. Friday gala \$150 to \$500. multi-day passes available.* (CPR)



LITCHFIELD JAZZ FESTIVAL
AUG. 9-11 | GOSHEN FAIRGROUNDS
860.361.6285, litchfieldjazzfest.com



June Bisantz & Alex Nakhimovsky

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 Good-bye."

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 **the ARTISTS' QUARTER**

Wednesday, 23 October 2013

June Bisantz

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/ranger Alex Nakhimovsky, guitarist Norman Johnson, trumpeter Gabor Vinyai, bassist Matt Dwonczyk and drummer Ben Skello.

Bisantz started the 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".

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

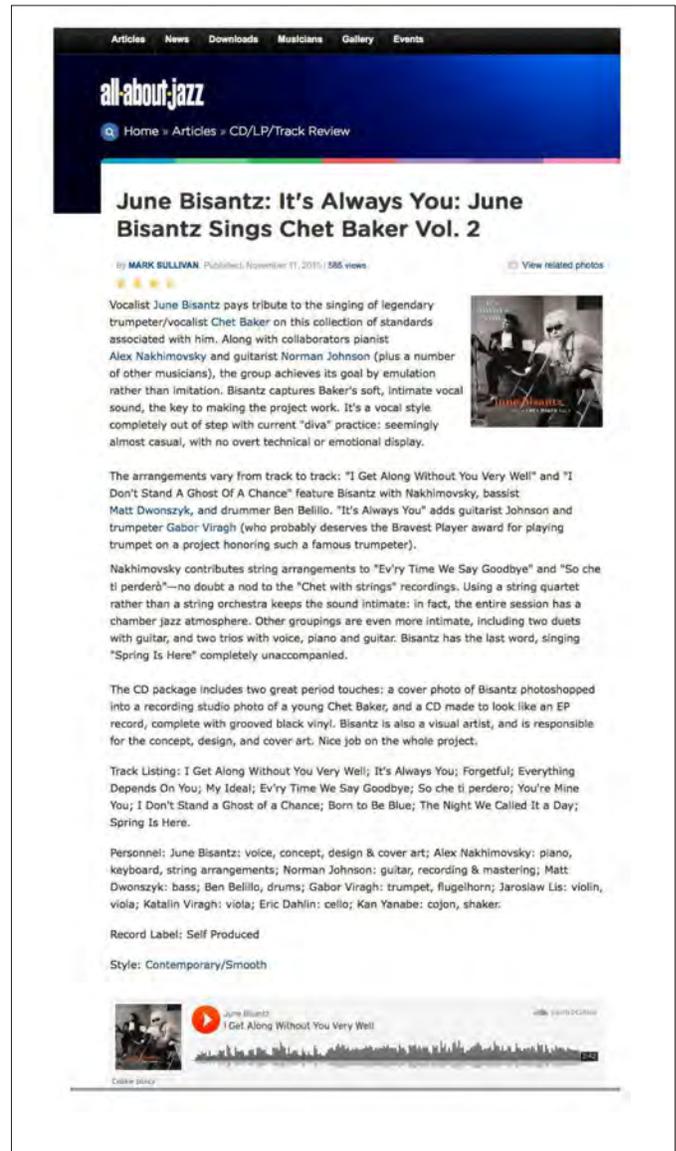
Along with collaborators pianist Alex Nakhimovsky and guitarist Norman Johnson, the group achieves its goal by emulation rather than imitation.

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 a web page from All About Jazz. The header includes navigation links for Articles, News, Downloads, Musicians, Gallery, and Events. The main title of the article is "June Bisantz: It's Always You: June Bisantz Sings Chet Baker Vol. 2" by Mark Sullivan, published on November 11, 2015, with 156 views. The article text describes how June Bisantz, along with pianist Alex Nakhimovsky and guitarist Norman Johnson, pays tribute to Chet Baker's vocal style through emulation. It mentions that Bisantz captures Baker's soft, intimate sound, which is a departure from current "diva" practices. The article also notes that the CD package includes a cover photo of Bisantz photoshopped into a young Chet Baker and a CD made to look like an EP record. A track listing and personnel list are also visible at the bottom of the article.

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

“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...”



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://jazzquadr.ru/index.php?act=REVIEWS&id=109>. The page features a header with 'JAZZO' and 'Naxos media'. The main content is a review of the album 'It's Always You: June Bisantz Sings Chet Baker, Vol. 2'. The review text is as follows:

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 sang songs, like Chet's own composition from his "Italian period", *So Che Ti Perderti*.

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.

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".

Leonid Auskern
jazzquadr.ru
<http://jazzquadr.ru/index.php?act=REVIEWS&id=109>

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jazzquadr.ru

Leonid Auskern

“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 1950s, the strings provide a breath of Ennio Moricones' 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



Special Hommage to Chet Baker: June Bisantz

“Cool and still full of emotion – just like Chet Baker”

*Hans-Bernard Kittlaus
Jazz Podium Magazine,
Germany*