

Jazz CD Reviews – August 2014

August 4, 2014



Lisa Thorson *Live* (own label unnumbered)

Too much time has passed since Lisa Thorson's last release. That was *Out To Sea* (Ellen Robin Music 103), for which I had the privilege of writing the liner notes. On that set Lisa was accompanied only by pianist Cho Yoon Seung, a student at Berklee College of Music where she teaches, and it dates back to 2003. On this new album, Lisa is joined by a trio with whom she has worked for two decades: Tim Ray (p); David Clark (b); George Schuller (d). Recorded live at Boston's Scullers Jazz Club, the musicians bring vivid life to an eclectic repertoire, including Charlie Parker's *Blues For Alice* and Duke Ellington's *Mood Indigo* as well as some standards and a couple of Latin pieces. Lisa's warm voice and her superb musicianship ensures that all the songs are presented most attractively. Always engaging, Lisa blends with the instrumentalists with deceptively effortless ease. The long gap between releases (eleven years is far too long) surely means that this CD will be eagerly sought out by lovers of good music well sung. Wheelchair-bound since 1979, Lisa has won many awards for her work on behalf of the disabled. This, added to her teaching, makes her absence from record completely understandable – but it doesn't make it any less regrettable.































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