



TODAY ON BLOGCRITICS Music Reviews: Kelly Suttentfield, Kaoruko Pilkington, Nancy Kelly

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MUSIC REVIEWS: KELLY SUTTENFIELD, KAORUKO PILKINGTON, NANCY KELLY

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Kelly Suttentfield - *Among the Stars*

Among the Stars, a collection of mostly late 20th century tunes exotically reinterpreted, is the second album from hush-voiced chanteuse Kelly Suttentfield. Accompanied by the guitar of Tony Romano, the singer puts her own idiosyncratic take on songs by the likes of Goffin and King, Neil Young, and K. D. Lang. Although she begins the set with a classic, albeit slowed-down, version of "Fly Me to the Moon" and later on adds "People Will Say We're in Love," this is the extent of her nod to the more or less traditional jazz repertoire.

It's with "One Fine Day," "Harvest Moon," and "Wash Me Clean" that she finds her groove. These are songs sung like you've not heard them before. In her hands they are awash with emotional intensity. They are performances you are not likely to forget. Indeed the same is true for her take on Buffy Sainte-Marie's "Until It's Time For You to Go" and Bob Dylan's "I'll Be Your Baby Tonight." When she does take on a jazz classic like "Just Say I Love Him," where she's competing with someone like Nina Simone, her version, while fine, loses a bit of its luster.



Kaoruko Pilkington - *Bright side of My Life*

Kaoruko Pilkington's self-produced *Bright side of My Life*, released early this month, is the jazz vocalist's second album, coming 14 years after her debut disc, *Joy Spring*—a long wait, but worth it. Working with the same musicians over those years, this is a singer and an ensemble that speaks the same musical language. They know each other well, and it shows in the tightly played arrangements that highlight the singer's cool sound.

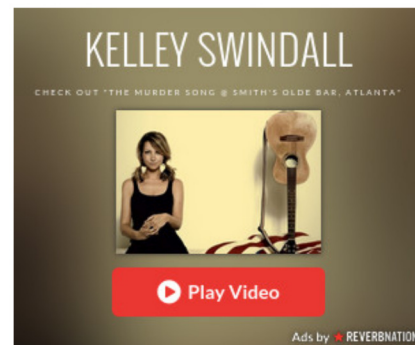


Her repertoire is a mix of tunes from the Great American Songbook joined with contemporary pop songs. And what she manages to do is breathe new life into the old songs, while giving the newer pieces a jazz

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