



Jazz Promo Services

VOCALIST REBEKAH VICTORIA AND JAZZKWEST EXPLORE THE MANY PHASES OF LOVE IN HER SWINGING DEBUT CD, #OLDFASHIONEDTWITTERTWIT

California-based singer Rebekah Victoria and JazzKwest travel the arc of romance from infatuation to breakup to resolution through swinging classic jazz tunes on this long-anticipated debut CD, *#OldFashionedTwitterTwit*.

A seasoned vocalist, Rebekah Victoria grew up in a musical household in Northern California and caught the performing bug early. She studied piano and had classical voice training, but found it “way too structured.” Rebekah Victoria experimented with other types of music, including Broadway-style singing, but eventually realized, “Jazz, to me, is home. It can be what you want it to be, and I want to swing. It’s my passion.”

Among her influences, Rebekah Victoria cites Sarah Vaughan, for her huge range, classical sound, and drive to try new things; Ella Fitzgerald, “because she’s the best”; and Peggy Lee, Rosemary Clooney, Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett for their legacies and phrasing.

A natural crowd-pleaser, Rebekah Victoria loves performing, reading the audience, and thriving on the immediacy of its feedback. “I’m not out there, not in your face,” she explains. “I like to see people enjoy the music and relax—I enjoy their joy and feel my own!” However, she points out that she’s equally at home in the recording studio, where she can focus on the music, collaborate with the band, and really get into a zone on each piece, as proved by her performance on *#OldFashionedTwitterTwit*.

After a lifetime of building an extensive repertoire of standards and Great American Songbook classics, when it came to choosing tunes for her first album Rebekah Victoria gravitated toward those presenting a vocal challenge. To prepare, she immersed herself in the spirit of each song, getting to know it well and shaping it to her own style.

As she winnowed through her favorites, Rebekah Victoria recognized that a love story was unfolding in the material, from the optimistic swinger “Taking a Chance on Love,” through exploring feelings with the sultry and soulful “Alfie,” experiencing infatuation, hitting rocky patches, caressing the lyrics in describing an affair gone wrong on “Spring Can Really Hang You Up the Most,” and reaching a resolution with “We’ll Be Together Again.”

Other *#OldFashionedTwitterTwit* highlights include:

Her spirited vocal treatment of “I’m Old Fashioned” reveals the vocalist’s affection for the tune. She takes “Speak Low” at a brisk tempo, varying her approach from terse to swinging. Rebekah Victoria and guitarist Chuck Mancini reveal their artistic comfort with each other on a vocal duet version of “Our Day Will Come.” A sensitive take on the verse to “All the Things You Are” gives way to a swinging interpretation of the Jerome Kern/Oscar Hammerstein classic, featuring lovely solos on trumpet and bass.

Rebekah Victoria’s choice of album title is a mashup of the name of one of her signature songs, “I’m Old Fashioned,” and a favorite lyric from the classic “Spring Can Really Hang You Up the Most” (“All afternoon the birds twitter-twit...”). The singer happily declares herself old-

fashioned, with a life-long taste for retro music and styles, drawn to the complexity, swing, and spirit of the big band music she first heard as a child. Her daughter suggested adding the hashtag to the title, as a winking acknowledgement of Twitter's importance in the 21st century.

JazzKwest got its moniker from Rebekah Victoria's quest to keep jazz alive for upcoming generations, and her quest to make the music her own. "It has to be me, it has to fit with what feels right, with the way its organically grown for me," the vocalist points out. The spelling, "kwest," is derived from the "k" in the singer's own name, Rebekah; she adopted the nonstandard spelling after encountering it in the Bible as a little girl.

Featured on the album are longtime JazzKwest members, including:

Guitarist/singer Chuck Mancini, a stalwart of the 1960s San Francisco music scene, whose experience runs the gamut from Frankie Laine to the Ink Spots to Santana. Besides backing Rebekah for more than a decade, the two have collaborated on many of the group's arrangements, and he lends his voice to several tunes.

Bassist Bob Steele, also a long-time accompanist and arranging partner of Rebekah Victoria, has backed up show-biz icons including Earth Kitt, Cab Calloway, Mitzi Gaynor, and Rosemary Clooney. He also played a three-year run in San Francisco's ultra-classy and romantic Top of the Mark restaurant.

Drummer Bob Belanski has performed with noted jazz figures such as Anita O'Day, Vince Guaraldi, Chet Baker, Steve Turre, and others. He's worked with a variety of big bands, including his own, Specdrum. The drummer also wrote the CD's "Puesta del Sol," featuring a large ensemble with horns.

With her spirit, determination, broad-ranging repertoire and sense of style, Rebekah Victoria's debut CD, *#OldFashionedTwitterTwit*, is bound to satisfy longtime fans and bring her talents to the attention of lots of new ones.

**Rebekah Victoria & JAZZKWEST "#OldFashionedTwitterTwitt"
(Jazzkwest CD001) Street Date: August 5, 2016**

Rebekah Victoria (vocals), Duncan James (guitar), Bob Steele (bass), Bob Belanski (drums)
Featured Guests Sharman Duran-piano, Ian Willson-tenor saxophone, John Copobianco-trumpet, Warren Gale Jr.-trumpet, Jules Rowell-trombone, Rob Fisher-bass, Rob Michael- guitar

jazzkwest.com <<http://jazzkwest.com/>>
EPK Video <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVBfRc84vI>>
Audio <<http://jazzkwest.com/oldfashionedtwittertwitt/>>

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