

Tell A Star, Maryanne de Prophetis

The minimalistic, abstract vocal path of Maryanne de Prophetis is too sophisticated to get the attention of the public, but does maintain a devoted following in venues of New York City. From 2002 she has led the trio with pianist Frank Kimbrough and trumpeter Ron Horton, with whom she has released two recordings, *A Glance* in 2005 and *Lilacs in Winter* in 2010. With these and other collaborators Maryanne has performed at Kitano, Cornelia Street Cafe, 55 bar among other venues of the metropolis.

Her musical development, decisively influenced by her studies with saxophonist Warne Marsh and with vocalist Jay Clayton, exhibits free improvisation, with experimentation in textures and dynamics. But in her art there is not only this. In *Tell A Star* de Prophetis demonstrates also knowing how to be a singer of tradition, interpreting intimate and rarified ballads, balancing searching phrases with those of Kimbrough and Horton. The CD sketches a journey of suspense and chiaroscuro, through written material, and other free, sometimes vehemently improvised passages and solos.

Among the most traditional moments we recall the radiant "Piper's Dream," with the lyrical interactions of Kimbrough and Horton, that add warmth to the evanescent, colloquial singing of Maryanne. In comparison, the tracks marked by experimental, improvised vocal that hold equal footing with her partners, we appreciated "Rosa", "Holy Cow" and "Plainsong."

Track Listing: Ombra; The Visitor; Tell a Star; Piper's Dream; Two Folk Songs; Pink; Holy cow; Roll It Away; Plainsong.

Personnel: Maryanne de Prophetis: voice; Frank Kimbrough: piano; Ron Horton: trumpet/flugelhorn; Satoshi Takeishi: drums/percussion.

Angelo Lenoardi, All About Jazz Italia May 2017