

Cheryl Fisher

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A South Florida Guide to Red Hot Jazz,
Blues, Swing & Big Band Music

Vocalist Cheryl Fisher

By Ginny Crawford

"One of the greatest female singers in the history of Canadian jazz"

The quote above is how the Festival International de Jazz de Montreal billed Cheryl Fisher this year at her encore performance there. A musical transplant from Canada to our South Florida scene, she will make a series of appearances in October to promote her newest CD, "God Bless the Child/Live in Concert", released nationally across Canada this past summer. Fisher has just returned from an extensive and successful tour of Canadian festivals, performing and promoting the new release.

This CD is her third production and represents a new level in her musical, composing and arranging talents, the seeds of which are already evident on two previous releases, "Slow Hand Jazz" and "Too Late to Hurry." Cheryl Fisher spent several years performing in Canada and on the international scene, working clubs in Paris and London as well as in the US, performing and studying with great artists like Scott Hamilton, Mark Murphy, Nancy King and Madeline Eastman. With a recently earned Masters Degree in Jazz Vocal Performance from the University of Miami under her belt, she's now pursuing her goal to broaden her already established Canadian recording and performing career and dedicate more of her time to writing. While studying at UM she met her faculty instructor, saxophonist/flautist Eric Allison, where a mutual love of Bix Beiderbecke brought them together. Now married, their musical collaboration is beautifully reflected on two selections from "God Bless the Child," Michael Franks' "You Were Meant For Me", and Charles Mingus' "Goodbye Porkpie Hat". She refers to the musicians on this album as "hand-picked jewels." They include Canadian jazz giants saxophonist P.J. Perry and pianist Tommy Banks, as well as guitarist John Stowell, pianist Phil Strange, and reedman/husband, Eric Allison.

Jack Sohmer, Jazz Times and Downbeat writer/reviewer has written of her talent in the liner notes: "Cheryl Fisher is a bona fide jazz singer, one who approaches her material, whether standard or self-composed, with the ear of an improvising hornman. Indeed, given her range and sonority, her voice could easily be taken for that of an alto sax endowed with the gift of speech...she does not engage in feats of vocal acrobatics or tortured restructurings of the composers' original melodies...an approach more like that of the still under-appreciated Sheila Jordan...an understanding of what jazz line improvisation is all about...a jazz singer of striking originality."

On Friday, October 5th she will be interviewed from 1-2:00 p.m. on WLRN's (91.3 FM) Tropical Currents radio show hosted by Ed Bell. The Cheryl Fisher Trio will perform on-air featuring Eric Allison on reeds and Bob Hanni on guitar.

Wednesday, October 10th, at 7:45 p.m. she will be featured in the Gold Coast Jazz Society's "Hit Parade of the 1940's" concert at the Amaturio Theater in the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Accompanying her will be some of South Florida's finest musicians. This performance will be repeated at noon on Tuesday, October 23rd, for the Broward County Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Avenue in Fort Lauderdale.

On Sunday, October 28, from 2:30-6:30 p.m. there will be a CD Release Party at O'Hara's Pub, in Fort Lauderdale featuring Cheryl's sextet.

Don't miss a chance to see why this jazz singer has won raves from reviewers like Canadian broadcasting icon Vick Gabereau for being "one of the best jazz singers we've ever produced in this country" and Bill Somers of Jazz Notes who describes Cheryl as "an exotic bird, perhaps the closest female singer yet to a mellow trumpet, she has a feeling for rhythm few singer share...(She creates) the same kind of excitement that Miles created with the most ordinary of tunes".

This month offers multiple opportunities to hear how this commanding, natural performer is capable of transforming a chatty crowd into a rapt audience with her musicality and personal warmth.

Cheryl