



REVIEWED IN JAZZ TIMES

CAROLYN LEE JONES

Bon Appetit! (Carolyn Jones)



Heartily embracing the old *Auntie Mame* adage that life is a banquet, Dallas-based Carolyn Lee Jones decided a few years ago to give herself a birthday gift, making the now-or-never decision to jettison a successful retail career to devote herself fulltime to jazz singing. Jones soon established a strong following on the cabaret and private party circuit. Now she, together with regular quartetmates Wells Hanley (piano), Saadi Zain (bass) and Jacob Melchior (drums and percussion), has released her debut disc.

Her sound may not be quite as big as Texas, but it is certainly as wide-open and free-spirited. Jones attacks each song with the vigor of a renegade wildcatter yet maintains a dusky undercurrent that drips with sensuality. And she deserves extra credit for ingenuity in song selection, augmenting such time-honored standards as "Get Out of Town," "Just in Time," a thunderous "Happy Together" and a beatific reading of Bob Dorough's "The Winds of Heaven." And speaking of Dorough, the master is on hand for two tracks, sharing vocals with Jones on his most famous composition, "Devil May Care," and sitting in on piano for his breezy new "Sunshine Morning."

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