

Vocalist Fay Victor at a glance...

In command, infectious, energetic and strong: Fay Victor hypnotizes audiences, whether she sings a blues, sculpts a free piece, reinvents a Herbie Nichols tune through her own lyrics, or effortlessly scats over the harmonies of a jazz standard. Her musicality is deft and the words (usually hers) speak of universal themes in story-driven ways, running the full gamut of human emotion in an original mix of traditional song forms and free improvisation -she prefers to call it "FreeSong" - that has become her trademark.

This approach has gone on to inform Victor's band-leading acumen. Victor's latest release, *THE FREESONG SUITE* features her longest working group, the Fay Victor Ensemble and is easily the most consummate outing of her career. "*THE FREESONG SUITE, peers into the NYC-based vocalist's challenging and rewarding world of captivating vocal work and stirring spontaneity*" says PopMatters.com and Jason Crane of The Jazz Session has proclaimed that "*THE FREESONG SUITE is easily one of my top 10 records of 2009.*"

THE FREESONG SUITE documents Ms. Victor's new stream of consciousness approach to creative vocal music, which accentuates spontaneity and improvisation by removing traditional boundaries between individual songs and genres. The recording features three long-form pieces made up of smaller compositions that flow in and out of each other as a running dialog.

As in all of her ensembles, the vocalist and instrumentalists operate on equal terms, constantly shaping and directing the music through their balanced explorations. "*This is one of the most astonishing jazz vocal albums I have ever heard,*" writes legendary New York guitarist Gary Lucas (*Captain Beefheart, Jeff Buckley*) in the liner notes. "*I recommend this album to the legions of bored listeners out there: it is hypnotic in its flow, every song in the three sections of the suite a masterpiece of compressed storytelling...they just don't make albums as good as this anymore.*"

Victor also collaborates with FVE guitarist Anders Nilsson in The Exposed Blues Duo, a formation set off after an invite to Marseille, France in December 2007 to lecture and perform at the WinterNights Festival. The resounding response from the audience made clear something new was being said - fusing true blues and blues based music with free jazz and suite-like shapes. The Duo will release a debut recording, "Bare" early in 2010.

Victor's other projects include Fay Victor's Jazz Vault, a group performing modern jazz masters' repertory such as Jackie McLean, Eric Dolphy and Charles Mingus with particular emphasis on the compositions of Herbie Nichols and Thelonious Monk to which Victor has written a sizable amount of lyrics. The special instrumentation of this group (no rhythm section, just tuba, guitar, alto & baritone sax) is indicative of Victor's penchant for putting seemingly disparate sounds together - and making it work. The approach is chamberesque with Dixieland tinges and free improvisation in the mix.

Outside the USA, Fay Victor has performed extensively in the Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, Germany, France, Sweden, Austria, Andorra, Mexico, India, Russia Poland & Japan. She has collaborated with musicians such Lawrence "Butch" Morris, Misha Mengelberg, Gary Lucas, Steve Coleman, Roswell Rudd, Vijay Iyer, Reedist Michael Moore, Duck Baker, Connie Crothers, Matana Roberts, Eric Mingus, Andrew Bemkey, John Hebert, Tyshawn Sorey, Wolter Wierbos, Anton Goudsmit, Ernst Glerum, Curtis Clark and the Duke Ellington Orchestra.

"Quotes"

About *The FreeSong Suite*

"A jazz singer who makes her notes slow, wide and meaningful—she often sounds like an evening-out of Betty Carter and Abbey Lincoln—Fay Victor uses a great and simple concept on *The FreeSong Suite* (Greene Avenue Music)...a studio recording organized like a live set. This means the band flows from one song into another, without knowing where it's going next...these songs have distinct melodic character: fascinating ballads with Anders Nilsson's country-bluesy guitar soloing, drum chants, some careful free improvising."

-Ben Ratliff, *The New York Times*

"From free improv to the blues to alt-rock and back again, *The FreeSong Suite* is easily one of my top 10 records of 2009."

-Jason Crane, *The Jazz Session*

About *Cartwheels through the Cosmos*:

"It's a borderless, cacophonous, in-your-face experiment in tone poetry and free-form expression. It's tough. It's gutsy. It's brilliant."

--Christopher Loudon, *JazzTimes*

"Complex, ambitious record...we can add Victor to the Betty Carter family of jazz singers, if we could find anyone else to fill out a family." (A-)

--Tom Hull, *Village Voice*

About *Lazy Old Sun*:

"Fay Victor is a gifted musician, possessed of flawless intonation, musical imagination, and inventive phrasing ... this album deserves a first, a second, and a third listening."

--William Grim, *allaboutjazz.com*

LAZY OLD SUN puts a fresh new twist on jazz singing...her rich alto and perfect pitch allow the 4tet to play with the fringes of dissonance...it keeps hope alive that something fresh may still be coming for jazz singing.

--Phillip McNally, *Cadence magazine*

Contact!

Fay Victor and her groups are available for festivals, concerts, club performances, conferences, clinics and workshops. Please forward all inquires of this nature to:

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