



"Music is pure energy and I am deeply grateful that I have been given the gift to feel a connection to so many people."

Judy Rafat





Judy Rafat

AROUND ABOUT MIDNIGHT



THOMAS RÜCKERT

Judy Rafat and Thomas Rückert are a perfectly matched duo. They have been playing together since 2001, and now the fruits of their collaboration are to be heard on their first CD together *“Around about Midnight.”* The harmonious balance and interplay of musical ideas of the two, is truly impressive.

Judy Rafat, Canadian jazz singer with a degree in Music, sings a collection of the most beautiful ballads that have accompanied her through the years... *“A Night in Berkeley Square,” “Lush Life,” “Round about Midnight”* or *“Someone to Watch Over Me”* just to mention a few. With the imaginative and sensitive playing of Thomas Rückert on piano, *each song on her new album is imbued with an intimate and romantic atmosphere.* She tells a story with deep conviction and has the uncanny ability to transform the listener into another world. With the dark timbre of her mellow, multi-faceted voice, her fans marvel at her powerful vocal range of three octaves and her stunning flexibility. Her voice unique in its combination of intimacy and strength is well trained in the deep as well as in the higher ranges and Judy’s inimitable style and expressive artistry gives her the means to reach out and truly move her listeners making this CD without a doubt very special.

Judy Rafat has made it her credo to touch the hearts of others with moments of joy and happiness through her music. Authenticity, affection, a rich talent, and a vocalist of a high caliber are her hallmarks.

It could not have been said more eloquently or aptly than by The great Slide Hampton: *“Here is a true voice coming straight from the heart”*

Judy Rafat has already achieved international renown. Her work with Paquito d’Rivera, Kenny Barron, Rufus Reid, and Claudio Roditi on the CD *‘Con Alma’* has brought her international recognition and respect.

Dizzy Gillespie said to Judy: *“...you have a great voice and you don’t sound like anybody else!”*

Thomas Rückert completed his jazz piano studies (cum laude + concert exam) at the ‘Hochschule für Musik’ in Cologne under the tutelage of Rainer Brüninghaus and John Taylor. Numerous trips to India, Africa and the USA have given him inspiration from the most diverse musical styles. In addition to performances at jazz festivals and on tour with various artists, he has also released two CDs with his own trio.

Let this duo transport you to the enchanting world of these plaintive ballads.

CD 3088

JUDY RAFAT AROUND ABOUT MIDNIGHT

- 1 A NIGHTINGALE SANG IN BERKELEY SQUARE 6:14
Lyrics: Eric Maschwitz Music: Manning Sherwin
- 2 ROUND MIDNIGHT 5:57
Lyrics/Music: Thelonius Monk
- 3 LUSH LIFE 7:49
Lyrics/Music: Billy Strayhorn
- 4 SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW 6:59
Lyrics: E.Y. Harburg Music: Harald Arlen
- 5 YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT LOVE IS 5:54
Lyrics: Gene Paul Music: Don Raye
- 6 SPRING CAN REALLY HANG YOU UP THE MOST 6:14
Lyrics: Fran Landesman Music: Tommy Wolf
- 7 MY FUNNY VALENTINE 6:21
Lyrics: Lorenz Hart Music: Richard Rogers
- 8 SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME 6:41
Lyrics: Ira Gershwin Music: George Gershwin
- 9 IN THE WEE SMALL HOURS
OF THE MORNING 1:16
Lyrics: Bob Hilliard Music: David Mann

"Here is a true voice coming straight from the heart" — Slide Hampton

Judy Rafat, Canadian protégé and friend of the world famous bebop trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, is undoubtedly one of the best jazz singers of our time. She possesses a voice truly unique in its combination of intimacy and strength, enabling a range of expression that has touched the hearts and souls of her fans the world over.

Here, she presents a CD of wonderful ballads which she has loved through the years.

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