



Sheila Cooper

Biography

“Tales of Love and Longing”



“A singer on her horn and with her voice, and that's the best playing for me.” Lee Konitz

Born and raised in Canada, saxophonist and singer Sheila Cooper honed her craft through New York City's jazz training grounds and has played and performed with internationally known musicians such as David Lieberman, Kenny Wheeler, Billy Drummond and Clark Terry.

From her former home base in New York City, Sheila has toured Europe as a leader for ten years in addition to many concerts, clubs as well as festivals in Canada and the USA with her quartet.

Sheila's musical life has also brought her to Japan and, back in New York, to the Broadway stage where she appeared as actress, saxophonist and vocalist in “Cabaret”.

Sheila Cooper's debut album “Since You Were Mine” was released in 1999 and contained a mix of familiar and seldom heard songs featuring Renee Rosnes, Billy Drummond and Scott Colley. It was quickly described as “the best jazz vocal debut” in many years (DOUG MOODY, “Moody's Mood” KMFB-FM, California, USA).

Her second album “While the World is in a Slumber” featuring John Hart, Marcello Pellieteri and Chris Berger also showcased Sheila's trademark quirky yet elegant arranging skills. In contrast to the debut album, it included two original compositions (one vocal, one instrumental).

When asked whether she prefers playing her saxophone or singing, she replies, “I love the one I'm with”: the saxophone with its groove, energy and big sound offers the possibility to discover something new with each solo, and singing, on the other hand, enables her to tell completely personal stories and live them out in 5 or 6 minutes.

Renowned music journalist and author Will Friedwald describes that exact mix in the liner notes of Sheila's latest album: “What I like best about Tales of Love and Longing is that there are jazz duo albums, like a saxophone and piano, and intimate vocal albums, like a singer and pianist, this new project is the first time I have ever heard an album that's both at the same time.”

Sheila Cooper currently resides in Vienna, Austria where she has established her Austrian quartet featuring some of the country's most acclaimed musicians: Fritz Pauer, Austria's best known and most revered jazz pianist, jazz drummer and multiple percussionist Howard Curtis as well as acoustic bass player Steve Wood (both from the USA).

Despite her recent arrival to the Austrian jazz scene, Sheila already garners much praise from nationwide press: “Cooper charms with multi-faceted saxophone-playing, and like every great singer she not only knows how to fascinate with notes, but to create a deep connection between heartfelt tranquility and ominous silence.” (Die Presse, May 2007)

On her current CD “Tales of Love and Longing” released on Candid Records, Sheila Cooper treats her listeners to a pure and beautiful collection of love songs recorded as duets with acclaimed Austrian pianist Fritz Pauer. It is her third album as vocalist, saxophonist and arranger and contains 10 beautiful ballads with themes ranging from loss and longing (Winter Moon) to hope and promise (A Kiss to Build a Dream on).

“Tales of Love and Longing” evolved from the collaboration with Austrian pianist Fritz Pauer that began after Sheila left jazz mecca New York City for Vienna, Austria in late 2006.

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