

Welcome to the Jazz Society of Oregon's Website

CD Reviews - November 2011

Reviews by George Fendel

Sagacious Grace, Dee Bell, vocals.

It took 21 years for some technical problems to be solved, but finally here is Bell on a set of jazz vocals recorded way back in 1990 that sees the light of day here for the first time. Working with the late San Francisco arranger-pianist, Al Plank, and other stellar cats like Houston Person, tenor, and Portland's John Stowell, guitar, Bell's solid and pure voice scores on some well chosen tunes. Tell me, what does it say about a singer when she chooses top-of-the-mountain writing like Dave Frishberg's "Dear Bix," or Strayhorn's "Isfahan," or Don Sebesky's rarity, "You Can't Go Home Again." How about Jimmy Rowles' masterpiece, "The Peacocks." It says, plain and simple, that the singer has done her homework. To all these add some Songbook America blue ribbons like "Watch What Happens," "You're My Thrill," "I Remember You," "If Dreams Come True" and "I'll Never Be The Same." Bell and friends put all the pieces together with some fine arrangements, "Bell"-like intonation, and winning material. Sorry it took so long to resolve a microphone problem, but glad to finally hear this outstanding recording.

Laser Records, 2011, 49:30.