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Dee Bell **Sagacious Grace** **(Laser)**

In 1983 and 1985, singer Dee Bell recorded two excellent albums for Concord: *Let There Be Love* and *One By One*. In 1990 she recorded a third one, *Sagacious Grace*, but it is only being released now for the first time. Due to a faulty microphone, the bass part originally came out distorted. With modern technology, the fault was finally fixed in recent times.

The music on *Sagacious Grace* is on the same level as the Concord albums. Dee Bell is heard in prime form, displaying a warm voice and a quietly swinging style on such numbers as "Watch What Happens," Dave Frishberg's "Dear Bix," "Isfahan" and "If Dreams Come True." For "The Peacocks," she contributed her own lyrics.

The accompanying sextet consists of pianist Al Plank, tenor-saxophonist Houston Person, guitarist John Stowell, bassist John Wiitala, drummer Colin Bailey and percussionist Michael Spiro. Plank, Person and Stowell have plenty of solo space and do a superior job of blending in with Dee Bell's voice.

Sagacious Grace is an easily recommended CD available from www.laserrecords.com, making one wonder why the still active Dee Bell has not recorded since.

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