

Live at the Palladium
DVD
Mimi Fox

TrueFire.com

This is simply jazz guitar playing at its best. Watching Mimi Fox set the bar high with her impassioned attitude and authoritative command is a joy for a jazz guitar enthusiast. She attacks the opener, "Blues for 2" with relentless chops wringing out lots of hip ideas that move outside and back again with the fluid grace of a screen saver. This is no bar-band pentatonic string bender. Her ideas are creative, heartfelt and sophisticated.

Mimi's hired two killer players, drummer Akira Tana, a superb talent, and bassist extraordinaire, Chris Enghauser, whom she says she met in Athens a few years ago. Both complement her brilliantly. They give her room to breathe when she wants to explore but always have her back. It's great chemistry and fun to watch.

Highlights include a stunning take of "Stella by Starlight," a tune jazz guitarists never tire of, Jobim's "Triste," a cooking treatment of "Yardbird Suite," and Rodgers and Hart's "My Romance" a duet with bassist Enghauser that's bookended by Fox's impressive use artificial harmonics. And she takes on Juan Tizol's "Caravan" with the ferocity of an underfed grizzly.

But Mimi's solo work here is the unexpected treat. Her version of "Polkadots and Moonbeams" is respectful of the gorgeous melody that serves as a great forum for her creative interpretations. The set closes with another terrific solo exploration: Bernice Petkere's "Lullaby of The Leaves."

The DVD also features a no-nonsense interview, sans interviewer, so it's actually more of a commentary and mission statement. It's cleverly superimposed over footage of Mimi playing and well worth watching. The folks at TrueFire, the company that produced this disk, obviously have a good handle on what they're doing.

Mimi Fox is a testament to the concept of developing one's talent to the fullest. Her butt has been in the chair. She's committed and dedicated herself to jazz and it's paid off. She'll give you fifteen rounds every time.

Highly Recommended,

Just Jazz Guitar