



Mimi Fox
Live at the Palladium

TruFire

Lauded by no less than Joe Pass and Jim Hall, jazz guitarist Fox is one of those masterful players who celebrates her instrument every time she picks it up, something she demonstrates at this live gig taped at the Palladium Jazz Club in Florida. From her sly melodies to the way she silently scats every note of her improvisations, she joyfully wends her way through a selection of originals and standards. On "Stella By Starlight" you can see her mix single-note lines with chordal vamps, holding her chops in reserve, but laying out a blinding run whenever it suits the music.

Conversely, Fox's take on Charlie Parker's "Yardbird Suite" is refreshing in that it's not merely a showcase for aimless chops, as many jazzers interpret it. In her hands, it's gently swinging standard with classic, postwar guitar licks aplenty – think Johnny Smith or Jimmy Raney, though Fox frequently distinguishes her breaks with sharp chordal jabs. "My Romance" kicks off with deft artificial harmonics, while originals like "Roses in January" and "Pack of Lies" crackle with more expert guitarmanship.

This DVD is boosted by nice camera work that blends wide-panned shots of Mimi Fox's trio, as well as close-ups of her fine technique. In all, a rich, sumptuous jazz feast. – *PP VG*