



Mimi Fox
Perpetually Hip

FAVORED NATIONS COOL 7050

★★★½

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While most double-disc releases are all too often a signal that an artist's internal mechanisms of self-critique have been compromised or ignored, Mimi Fox has provided in essence two unique albums in one.

The first disc is a solidly swinging

affair that finds the Bay Area guitarist in close communion with three of the best New York rhythm players around. From the cacophonous clip of "The Song Is You" to the rendering of her own delicately dazed "While Bangkok Sleeps," Fox and company communicate with an astonishing sense of familiarity.

It's the solo setting of the second disc where Fox transcends all expectations. Here, "Caravan" finds a striking new pace in the appropriately painted Latin hues of Fox's interpretation. Likewise, "On Green Dolphin Street" finds a soulful bounce in its step, and the classic "When The Saints Go Marching In" is given an overtly optimistic turn.

In the instances where technique and tone are seemingly set for a showdown, Fox never sacrifices one for the other. —John Kreicbergs

Perpetually Hip: Disc 1 (Band)—Perpetually Hip; The Song Is You; But Beautiful; Saluting The Groove; Night And Day; While Bangkok Sleeps; So Many Stars. (66:41) Disc 2 (Solo)—Caravan; Polkadots And Moonbeams; On Green Dolphin Street; Alone Together; Someone To Watch Over Me/Skylark Medley; When The Saints Go Marching In. (65:12)

Personnel: Mimi Fox, guitar; Xavier Davis, piano; Harvie S, bass; Billy Hart, drums.

» Ordering info: favorednations.com