



Jazz is Sweeter The Second Time Around

**Jazz artist Marlene del Rosario
launches her new album with a
little help from her friends**

Though the Beatles once sung about having a little help from their friends back in their heyday, for jazz vocalist, pianist and composer Marlene del Rosario, that message still rings true today. That popular song, in fact, comes out on her second CD entitled “Marlene, Live! With a Little Help From Her Friends” released on Blue Earth Music.

“The track is quite heartfelt and dedicated to everyone who has shown some random or non-random act of kindness to a loved one,” said Marlene, one of the few women in the jazz world, who is a pianist, vocalist and composer, and even dabbles as a producer – all at the same time. In fact, her first album, “Crying Days,” also under Blue Earth Music, is a collection of pop/jazz and pop/r&b funky tunes, 9 of which were written by her. It has been described as “soulful melodies in rich layers of harmony, intelligent pop jazz with a really tight groove.”

This time, she goes live. Recorded at a concert in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the album is more jazz-oriented, including classics like “Night and Day,” “Blue Skies” and “Tenderly”. She has 3 originals in this album, including a jazz version of “Basic Rule,” a tune which appears in her first CD. One of her favorite cuts, “Some Other Time,” she performs as a duet with distinguished trumpeter, Greg Hopkins

“I decided to go live instead of studio recording because the dynamics of a live performance is so much more interesting. When you know that there’s an audience listening, it just makes the biggest difference. Performing for me is about interaction---not only amongst the musicians, but with the audience as well.”

She knows her audience well. Performing in solo settings, she engages audiences with a stylish and lively repertoire that mixes jazz, Latin, originals and re-arrangements of her favorite pop tunes. Her sultry, soulful voice gently takes us by the hand, encourages us to listen and to give in, allowing her to reach parts of us we don’t know

existed. It is definitely a comfortable ride. She has performed for Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand as well as Fidel Ramos and Cory Aquino, as a guest performer of the Executives Band.

Today she has a band of her own. Members of her Boston-based ensemble have toured extensively, performing with Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Dizzie Gillespie, among others. Together, they performed at the 2005 and 2006 Boston Arts Festivals, Piers Park Concert Series, Jazz in July concert series, Ryles Jazz Club for the UN-benefit to remove landmines in Mozambique, and Worcester's First Night. They have appeared on Boston's Latin cable television program, "Fernando's Hideaway."

But Marlene has no problem going solo. She was recently interviewed on Boston's public radio, WGBH, with host Al Davis from Jazz Gallery; performed for a benefit concert in Peru; and in Asia, opened for Omar Sosa, a world-renowned Cuban pianist at the 2008 Philippine International Jazz Festival.

While her first CD, "Crying Days," was about needing friends whenever one had bad moments; her second album celebrates these relationships.

"I thought that I wouldn't be able to do this project without the help of my friends," she said, while practicing her piano chops, which she does several hours a week. She also teaches piano twice a week at ZUMIX, a non-profit organization, which empowers youth through its music programs, and which she got connected to through the mentoring program at Berklee, where she studied under Cheryl Bentyn of the Manhattan Transfer and Livingston Taylor, a singer-songwriter just like his brother, James. "It is quite humbling to feel the love and support of friends and family. I am very thankful for that."

This gratitude includes her father, also a jazz musician, who took her to jazz performances around Manila, The Philippines, her home country. He had the good fortune to jam with a lot of topnotch jazz legends, including Duke Ellington and Gary Burton and has opened for Frank Sinatra.

Of course, the musicians complete her thank you list. Greg Hopkins on trumpet, formerly a member of the Buddy Rich Orchestra, has performed with legends like Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzie Gillespie, Frank Sinatra and Stevie Wonder. Swiss guitarist, Patrick Mottaz, also co-leads the MCFC Jazz Quartet with Phillippe Crettien. Dave Landoni on acoustic bass was a member of the Artie Shaw Orchestra and Herb Pomeroy's trio in the Downbeat Magazine's critically-acclaimed CD, "Live at Café Beaujolais." Brooke Sofferman, on drums, is in the NEC (New England Conservatory) faculty and has released well-reviewed CDs with his group, The Sofferman Perspective, featuring Jerry Bergonzi and Phil Grenadier.

"I'm pretty fortunate to be playing with some of the most amazing musicians in this album, most of them composers, performers and band leaders in their own fields,"

said Marlene, who was recently interviewed on Boston's public radio, WGBH, with host Al Davis from Jazz Gallery.

Marlene's repertoire is varied. Although she performs mostly jazz, "some pop and r&b tunes interest me as well, and I like to give a different twist to them, making them unpredictable."

This unpredictability, doubled with her passion for innovation, makes her, and her music, unique, in the cool, sophisticated world of jazz. While women in this genre are usually found cooing seductively on stage, leaning casually against high stools, if not draped elegantly on top of pianos, Marlene works tirelessly on and off stage, resulting in irresistible tracks and performances, jazz at its absolute finest.

"Marlene, Live! With a Little Help From Her Friends," released on Blue Earth Music, will be available at www.marlenemusic.net and Cdbaby, and will soon be downloadable through all the major sites like iTunes, Napster, and the like.

