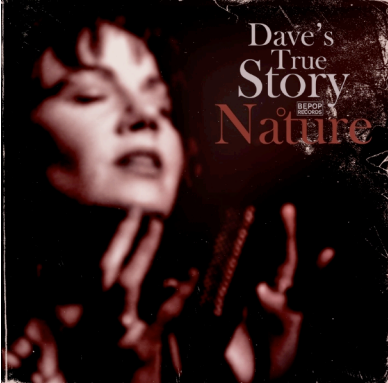


JAZZIZ

NOVEMBER 2005

Nature
by Dave's True Story -
JAZZIZ Magazine
Critic's Pick 2005

Dave's True Story
Nature
(Bebop)



It's not hard to imagine stumbling into a cabaret or tavern in the '40s or '50s and seeing guitarist Dave Cantor, bassist Jeff Eyrich, and vocalist Kelly Flint in the dim light through a haze of smoke. You can almost hear the glasses clinking in the background as the trio essays this mellow set of jazzy pop that melds Tom Waits, Dan Hicks, and Cole Porter on the one hand, and the gauzy sound of '50s-era Blue Note on the other.

The result is an album that can appeal to ears weaned on Diana Krall or Norah Jones but offers surprising depth as well. Flint's singing stands front and center.

It's not a big, bold voice, yet there's sinewy strength to it, most noticeably on tracks such as "Who Would Guess?" or "Small Black Heart." Cantor imbues his songs with sly lyrics and engaging structures, which he and Eyrich (the band's producer and Flint's husband) flesh out without ever really standing out. The guests who do — saxophonist Bernhard Ullrich, vibes players Tom Beckham and Lalo, flugelhornist Steve Gluzband — add their voices to the proceedings without ever really dominating.

Ullrich in particular gets in some effective solos, particularly on "The World in Which We Live" and "Sandman." Roger Bruno on accordion and Jon Dryden on electric piano give "Still, She Knows" a slightly off-kilter vibe. But when all is said and done, Flint's plaintive, almost world-weary vocals and the empathetic support of Cantor and Eyrich on these original, well-crafted soliloquies are what set Dave's True Story apart.

— Ross Boissoneau