

Black Taxi

Round Records P.O. Box 3243 Norwood, South Australia 5067, Telephone/Facsimile (08) 364 4266

Black Taxi Taken for a Ride (Round Records)

Unique concepts - the recordings which stubbornly defy being jammed into any existing pigeon holes - immediately arrest the ears. So it is with the Black Taxi project; a hot assembly of Melbourne Jazz players and three female singers sharing the leads on a batch of sharp contemporary songs from the pens of Dave Wayman and Terry Bradford. It's an album that carries the spark of innovation, moving along unexpected lines to create a fresh sound notably devoid of cliché and cynicism.

They make music from the sunny side of the street; where pop songs do a sexy, lively dance with sassy, bright jazz instrumentation. There's cheeky bursts from the horn players, the lively canter of a vibraphone, a bubbling double bass. The singers relish their moments, with Leah Cotterell, April Ronsisvalle and Yasmine Shoobridge shining on dusky ballads (*Don't Worry*) cute melodies (*Traffic Jam*) and roaring soul (*So Twisted*).

That said, there's still plenty of meat on the bones of these songs; sharp barbs of irony to the lyrics of *Hounds of God* introspective reflections of yearnings and loves *I Concentrate on You*. Its smart, sophisticated, sassy ideas in a tight embrace with like minded music. When something this curious comes around, you don't want to pass it by. Instead, you want to listen. Again.

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David Sly