Polish Review - Blind Passion, Katriona Taylor by Era JazzU, POLAND

The key decision for a jazz singer is to choose a repertoire. In addition, creating a band that would - without succumbing to any manner - perfectly blend in with the proposed sound and moods. If you add a bit of your own compositions, a set of standards and interpretations that build interesting associations, a session is born that eludes typical commercial productions. Such is the album "Blind Passion" by the British singer Katriona Taylor.

Although almost unknown in Poland, Katriona Taylor is a respected and recognized artist on the British jazz scene. She opened concerts for legendary Grammy Award winner George Benson and toured with the James Taylor Quartet, which is hugely popular in the UK. Among the important concerts, Katriona Taylor performed for the Royal Family, celebrity



events and regular concerts at the best jazz clubs and festivals in the UK. Katriona Taylor's musical career is extremely inspiring. Despite being diagnosed with Stargardt's disease at the age of 7 - an incurable and degenerative eye disease that destroys the macula - she managed to obtain an excellent education (including studying law and practicing as a solicitor in the City of London). A radical change took place when the singer quit her lucrative job as a lawyer and joined the stage: she obtained a master's degree in acting and singing at the famous Royal Central School of Speech & Drama.

"It's been 12 long years since my last recording and during that time I've experienced some of the greatest joys life can bless you with - two beautiful children - as well as one of the darkest moments of my life with breast cancer, twice." - Katriona says.

The singer presents extremely subtle and personal interpretations of great hits (Stevie Wonder's "Master Blaster" and "My Cherie Amour", Leon Russell's "A Song for You", "Light My Fire" The Doors), jazz-standard by Duke Ellington - "It Don't Mean A Thing" and "As You See Me Now" by Jools Holland, which was written and recorded with the famous Puerto Rican blind singer and guitarist José Feliciano. The tracks also include the singer's beautiful and jazz-standard compositions ("Things Have Changed", "In This Place", "Fly Me To The Stars", "Makes Me Wanna Stay" and the extremely suggestive "Sunny Days").

A perfect set of songs, imaginative and impressively sung, create an unusual, subtle atmosphere of the entire album, the background of which is created by an

excellent band: saxophonist and flutist Vasilis Xenopoulos, guitarist (from Amy Winehouse's band) Robin Banerjee, Latin pianist John Crawford, guitarist Dominic Ashworth, keyboardist Peter Hammond, bassist Dave Jones and drummer Chris Nickolls.