

What the Critics are Saying About Dena DeRose



“The most creative and compelling singer-pianist since Shirley Horn...DeRose is a member of that exclusive company of musicians (notably Nat Cole, Blossom Dearie, and Horn) who sing and play the piano with equal distinction.” -Joel E. Siegel, Washington City Paper

“Dena DeRose is a veteran pianist-singer who has long carved out her own musical identity within the modern mainstream of jazz.” -Scott Yanow, The New York City Jazz Record

“(The Track) “Nothing Like You” is a mix of grace and thrust that DeRose completely owns, while still allowing room for a brilliant romp by trumpeter Jeremy Pelt. But etiquette becomes an ally on “I Have The Feeling I’ve Been Here Before”, a break-up lament previously covered by Karin Krog and Carmen McRae that the singer emotionally amplifies with expert contours and nuanced delivery. It’s an unusual choice, and perhaps a reminder: DeRose benefits from avoiding the obvious.” - Jim Macnie, Downbeat Hot Box

“You want to hear a jazz vocal piano trio at the top of the genre’s game? DeRose hooks up with Wind and Wilson again, adds a guest list of Sheila Jordan, Jeremy Pelt and Houston Person, leans heavily on the songbooks of Bob Dorough, Broadbent and Murphy and tying it all together with a definitive version of “Days of Wine & Roses” that leaves you panting for her next outing. Whew! Immaculate, perfect, soulful and swinging, this set has everything you want. Killer stuff that just plain says it all.” - Midwest Record

Dena DeRose has all the vocal skills needed to rise to the top level of her field...Singing beautifully, arching through fascinating alterations of melody...she is a fluent pianist with facile technique, an imaginative approach to improvisation and a jaunty sense of swing.” -Don Heckman, LA Times

"She's certainly a head and ear turner. "I'm Glad There Is You" (Dorsey/Mertz) contains a sensational piano solo midway. But that is only the sandwich. The adoring vocal before and after are so uniquely polished. It's a rhythmic toe tapping vocal. At its conclusion she offers us a wondrous acapella voicing which simply cannot be bettered." - Dan Singer, In Tune International Magazine

"DeRose is special: As a singer, she is direct, clearvoiced and knows how to put across a song. As a pianist, she eats up the keyboard without making a show of it. Mostly, she exudes joy... What soul! Years ago, when I lived in New York and frequented the Village Vanguard, I developed the habit of telling people that an especially good concert -- in any club, in any town -- was "like a night at the Vanguard." DeRose's night at Monterey was one special night at the Vanguard." -Richard Scheinin, San Jose Mercury "Jazz Singer"

"...DeRose never plays, sings, anything straight...Her interpretations are vivid and often exciting demonstrations of how innovative her musical concepts are, both instrumentally and vocally." -Philip Elwood, San Francisco Examiner

"Dena DeRose sings jazz as if she had been at it her whole life long, and then some. She interprets standards in a deliciously laconic, no-nonsense manner, accompanying herself on piano with hard swinging grace." -Terry Teachout, The New York Times

"Every now and then, an artist emerges who combines a profound respect for the American Popular Songbook with the ability to make us hear these songs in a different way. Such is the talent of Dena DeRose..." -David Orthmann, Hot House Magazine

"4-1/2 Stars - New York based DeRose is a major find. She both sings and plays the piano like a million bucks!" -Zan Stewart, Downbeat Magazine

"The sly, winning jazz-based vocalist-pianist Dena DeRose..." -Steve Futterman, The New Yorker

"A great discovery: the singer and pianist Dena DeRose. She sings with a natural, unaffected voice, sometimes dragging out the final syllable or giving blues inflections. She communicates intense feelings and a gripping sensuality." -Serge Baudot, Jazz Hot (Paris)

"...A lovely, dazzlingly talented newcomer named Dena DeRose swings in chords, bends notes in tempo and cools down the kilowatts with her midnight blue ballads...a privilege to discover her. The best vocalist of the trio (re: "Made for the Movies..." at The Algonquin's 'Oak Room'), with the talent to become one of the most important jazz pianists on the contemporary scene." - Rex Reed, The New York Observer

“...Dena DeRose, whose clear, medium-light voice, fleet, wistful pianism and cool intelligence are the icing on the cake.” -Stephen Holden, The New York Times