

LOS ANGELES JAZZ SCENE
October 2004

AMANDAH JANTZEN
MY SECRET LOVE
(Starfire)

The third CD by singer Amandah Jantzen (who is from Portland, Oregon) might very well be her best. Her voice is very warm and friendly, her choice of notes on this set of standards is tasteful and subtle, and there is a happiness to her singing that is difficult to resist. She makes such tunes as "Secret Love," Ella Fitzgerald's "Rough Ridin'," "It Could Happen To You" and "Gone With The Wind" sound as if they were written for her.

Ms. Jantzen's backup group, which ranges from a duo with bassist Rick Kilburn on "Bye Bye Blackbird" to a quintet, usually has pianist Chris Sigerson and features a few guest appearances from the Eddie Lockjaw Davis-inspired tenor Al World. The musicians all complement the singer's expressive voice and inspire one of her best performances on record so far.

This set, available from www.amandahjantzen.com, is well worth acquiring. Amandah Jantzen, who in recent times has been performing long engagements in Asia, is a singer who deserves to be much better known in the U.S.

Scott Yanow