

NEW YORK VOICES

Selected Reviews

New York Voices with the BBC Big Band:

"Having been a contributor of this wonderful world of show-business for some considerable time (or so the rumors would have it!), I am increasingly economical with certain words of description. Words like 'sensational' and 'fantastic' and 'unbelievable' top the list of those to be avoided until -- that is -- this evening, after listening to, and being blown away by, the distinctive sound and superb contemporary vocalization of a two-boy, two-girl vocal ensemble with the simple and easily remembered name -- 'New York Voices'. With great backing from the BBC Big Band, they produced two 30 minute sets that were simply breathtaking in the extreme, lifting the audience, including many hardened musical 'pro's' to moments of rapture and to their feet in unabashed acclaim.

"That they brought shades of harmonies reminiscent of the Hi Lo's, The Four Freshmen and, particularly, Singers Unlimited and Manhattan Transfer to their performance was purely coincidental for this sensational quartet are unique both in style and musical presentation. Their phrasing is a joy to the ear, their timing exquisite and their arrangements are to die for. They are, unquestionably, the vocal giants of jazz and superb singers of swing, much deserving their world wide recognition. They 'scat' in four part harmony and transcend from the crazy triple time lyrics of 'Cloudburst' to the more gentle, refined notes of romantic ballads, like 'I Can't believe You're in Love with Me'. Their a cappella arrangement of 'I'll Be Seeing You' proved a thing of elegant beauty and affirmation of the genius that underlines their work. Sadly, and unbelievably, although feted throughout the western world and particularly, in the USA, they are mainly ignored in Great Britain. The four -- Peter Eldridge, Darmon Meader (a superb saxophonist), Lauren Kinhan, and Kim Nazarian -- are worthy of the Albert Hall, The Palladium and all the great concert halls in the UK. They deserve to be showcased both live and on national TV in order that every jazz and swing fan can marvel at their masterful interpretations. Will someone please do something about this dreadful oversight?"

New York Voices - Sing The Songs of Paul Simon:

"New York Voices pull out a project so inspired it makes one wonder why no one has thought of doing jazz vocal renditions of Simon's most memorable tunes before..."

Billboard Magazine

"...full of life, teeming with energy and bursting with melody. The arrangements are brighter and brassier than Simon's originals, but there's a real charm to the performances that makes it a thoroughly entertaining experience..."

All Music Guide

New York Voices - Live Performance:

"How Voices squash their previously five-part formulas into four-parts is one of the new great wonders of the world. If there is anything wrong with their presentation, it's that its sizzling pace leaves listeners breathless and not quite sure how to assimilate what it is they've heard. Voices takes disciplined uninhibited singing to a new higher level of disjointed unity..."

Reno Gazette Journal

"The jazz vocal quartet paid tribute to the giants of their tradition -- while standing pretty tall on its own..."

The Indianapolis Star

"New York Voices lives up to its reputation as the most exciting vocal ensemble in current jazz, to collect such quality voices in one group is rare enough, yet the real trick of New York Voices is how well they mesh..."

Boston Herald

"Meticulous, polished and dead serious in their pursuit of vocal excellence, the Voices manage to maintain a genuine playful approach that makes it all look a little too easy. Their stage manner somehow shrinks even the largest venues into intimate cafes where each patron feels personally entertained..."

Manchester Craftmen's Guild