

“LADIES DAY” Press Reviews

DOWNBEAT (October 2017)

MJ Territo is a veteran singer who is very much a storyteller. With a calm delivery and ear for poetry, she sticks to the lyrics of songs while giving them a gentle swing. Her Ladies Day project has her leading an all-female jazz group to perform 14 songs that, in all but four instances, have both the music and the lyrics written by women. Among the writers are Marian McPartland, Bertha Hope, Patricia Barber, Mary Lou Williams, Peggy Lee, Lorraine Feather, Blossom Dearie, Meredith D'Ambrosio and Melba Liston. The fine rhythm section, led by pianist Linda Presgrave, swings throughout. There are two appearances by flutist Andrea Brachfeld, and one apiece from tenor-saxophonist Virginia Mayhew and harpist Brandee Younger. Territo wears many faces. She's emotive on the McPartland ballad "There'll Be Other Times," sly on the Hope love song "You Know Who," uplifted on "Strange Fascination" and vivacious on the blues "Everything Is Moving Too Fast." As the set progresses, Territo's versatility and subtle creativity grow. Her singing on "True" is beautiful, and she is properly fetching on Dearie's "I'm Shadowing You." —Scott Yanow

<http://www.downbeat.com/digitaledition/2017/DB1710/66-67.html>

All About Jazz

By C. Michael Bailey

Vocalist MJ Territo celebrates all things women on her ambitious and overdue *Ladies Day*. Territo noted the number of compositions that she loved were written by women. So, taking that fact and assembling an all-women's band, Territo creates the trifecta of celebration.... What this recording proves to be is one of the most attractive standards sets imagined, because these standards... are not so standard. Territo... expertly guides this welcome romp through the less known.... This is a collection of finely composed songs expertly delivered in a thoughtful and compelling production. Well done!

<http://bit.ly/2tQKyus>

Contemporary Fusion Reviews
by Dick Metcalf

The fourteen-song gem was released on the 4th of August, 2017, so you'll want to rush right on out and get your copy.... I loved the flute work from Andrea Brachfeld on "In Your Own Sweet Way," and all the other core players help to make this one a resounding success (Linda Presgrave on piano, Iris Ornig on bass and Barbara Merjan doing drums)... the keyword for this album is "hip", no doubt about it.

It was an easy pick for my personal favorite... MJ got harpist Brandee Younger to play on "True" (a Lorraine Feather/Dave Grusin composition)... though it's not a hoppin' jazz jam, it's one of the most calming pieces I've heard (yet) in 2017... simple, but full of beauty and emotion. Ms. Territo is one of the most mellow jazz singers on the scene today, and her new release is the essence of coolness.

<http://contemporaryfusionreviews.com/mj-territo-ladies-day-jazz-vocals-mj-territo-ladies-day/>

Midwest Record

by Chris Spector

A smoking, core jazz group augmented by some serious talents making names for themselves powers this set that's certainly a testament to female energy and empowerment. The title might have you thinking it's a tribute to Billie Holiday but it looks like she'll have to wait for when this crew puts out a v. 2. Solid playing, singing and song choices make this set a winner throughout.

<http://midwestrecord.com/MWR1241.html>

LEMONWIRE

by Dodie Miller-Gould

“No Time For Snoozin” This track is a Territo original.... Lyrically and musically, is as upbeat and playful as its name suggests. As a vocalist, Territo has a warm, natural tone that is used effectively here. The narrative is spun by a wise woman dishing out life advice. The singer gives listeners a list of esoteric and disparate things to be happy about. The rhymes and images are unexpected “lilacs in spring time/ Tony Bennett in swing time” is a particularly nice line..... The music is light as a tap dance performed by agile feet.

<http://www.lemonwire.com/2017/06/23/mj-territo-celebrates-women-jazz-ladies-day/>