

PRESS AND RADIO REVIEWS; JAZZ CHARTS

MJ TERRITO, DOWN WITH LOVE

Dick Metcalf, Zzaj Productions

MJ does a whole host of jazz styles with her vocals on this debut CD, but her unique concept twist on this one is that they're all themed around the idea that the songs are all about "unlove". She selected a splendid crew of players to back her up, including Alan Rosenthal on piano, David Shaich on bass, Jon Doty on drums and guests Dennis Winge on guitar and Libby Richman on alto sax. I particularly enjoyed the lilting "Throw It Away" ... it's clearly evident that MJ is enjoying the singing & the band is right on time from the opening note. My favorite track was the down & funky "Gotta Serve Somebody" ... a real slip/slidin' track that demonstrates something about her ability to have FUN with the music (and for this reviewer, that is the KEY ingredient to success). I give this one a HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, with an "EQ" (energy quotient) rating of 4.95.

The Borderland (UK), John M. Peters

With a title such as Down With Love you would expect this new album by jazz vocalist MJ Territo to be, to say the least, a bit of a downer. But that isn't the case at all, the theme of the album is that there is more to life than love and Ms Territo has chosen ten songs to emphasise her premise. With support from a trio [Alan Rosenthal - piano, Davis Saitch (sic) - bass, Jon Doty - drums, plus a couple of guests on a couple of tracks] the ten tracks are reasonably upbeat and sourced from right across the spectrum from Bob Dylan to Jobim to Harold Arlen. The songs are: Down With Love, Devil May Care, Throw It Away, Waters of March, Mambo Italiano, Do You Miss New York?, The Lady Is a Tramp, Gotta Serve Somebody, Waltz For Debby and Small Day Tomorrow.

The album is certainly a lively affair, with Ms Territo singing with much gusto and no small amount of verve - indeed, she is what we Brits would call a bit of a belter - and is bolstered by the trio who wrap their instruments around her voice like a velvet glove. So, we have songs that contemplate life, songs that are fun and those about celebrating life in all its variety. That's a heck of a lot of chutzpah packed into one little CD! If your love life is becoming passé add a little va-voom with this album.

JAZZ TIMES, Wilbert Sostre

There is a little bit of Broadway in the way MJ Territo sings. And even in the jazzier moments on the album, Territo does not sound like any other female jazz singer. Her phrasing and style reminds me more of male singers, like Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett than Holiday or Ella. Territo has kind of the same coolness on her phrasing.

You can hear on Territo's voice, she is having a lot of fun singing songs like *Down with love*, *Mambo italiano*, *Lady is a tramp*, *Gotta serve somebody*, *Jobim Waters of March* and *Waltz for Debby*. The arrangements are simple but effective with good musicians on piano, Alan Rosenthal and bass, David Shaich. And two special guests, Dennis Winge playing guitar on *Waters of March* and Libby Richman playing sax on *Gotta serve somebody*.

This album reflects the diverse musical taste of Territo, including Jazz Standards, show tunes, ballads, Brazilian music and even rock.

Cashbox Magazine, Christopher Llewelyn Adams

The world of vocal jazz is one filled with an abundance of styles. One artist who blends well with any fine music collection is MJ Territo. Her latest, "Down With Love," is an excellent reminder of how great music should sound this holiday season.

This self produced effort is a clear sign that Territo is looking to make her mark for years to come. A blend of songs from some of music's biggest names surely contains something for everyone, with covers of "The Lady Is A Tramp," among others. There is no bigger sign of flattery than to cover a great song, and Territo gives her spin on some great tracks.

The album's high water mark comes in Territo's take on Bob Dylan's "Gotta Serve Somebody." As a young man raised on classic rock, I've heard quite a few Dylan covers, and this one is in the top 20 that I've heard. A style and rhythm you'd never hear from Bob, that's for sure.

Give your favorite aunt or uncle a great jazz album this season. Remind them how great music can make you feel. Have a great new year.

George Fendel, Jazz Society of Oregon

Anyone whose repertoire includes two Bob Dorough songs ("Devil May Care" and "Small Day Tomorrow"); one Dave Frishberg opus ("Do You Miss New York?"); and a Bill Evans standard ("Waltz For Debbie") is okay in my book. And give her extra credit for additional material from the likes of Rodgers and Hart, A. C. Jobim and others. Territo brings a little Rosie Clooney-like maturity to her vocals, and works more than comfortably with the fine piano trio backing her.

Midwest Record Review, Chris Spector

Taking a highly roundabout way to becoming a jazz vocalist, she waited until she could shake off her middle class commitments and jump in with both feet.

Coming to the fore later in life, Territo brings a world weary cynicism to her cynical songs and a bright outlook to her upbeat stuff. Don't confuse this with a bad case of frustrated housewife syndrome, Territo has the music in her and now it's time for it to finally come out. A solid jazz vocal date well worth checking out.

Jerry Maddock, KGNU 88.5 FM, Boulder CO

Territo's Down With Love is a great concept. Singing songs that aren't or only tangentially are about love results in a unique playlist. It includes many of my favorites, including "Devil May Care" and the seldom-heard Fran Landesman/Bob Dorough collaboration on "Small Day Tomorrow." You can be sure it will get plenty of airplay.

MJ Territo, *Down With Love*, Press and Radio Reviews; Jazz Charts

JAZZ CHARTS

#3 Top Jazz Adds CMJ Issue #1178

#39 CMJ Jazz Chart Issue #1185

CMJ STATION CHARTS:

#1 Aggie Radio CMJ Jazz Adds Issue #1178

#1 KFAI CMJ Jazz Adds Issue #1178

#2 KAFM CMJ Jazz Adds Issue #1178

#2 KGLT CMJ Jazz Adds Issue #1178

#2 KOTO CMJ Jazz Adds Issue #1178

#2 M3 Radio CMJ Jazz Adds Issue #1178

#2 WFNP CMJ Jazz Adds Issue #1178

#2 WFWM CMJ Jazz Adds Issue #1178

#2 KGLT CMJ Adds Issue #1179

#2 WRTC CMJ Adds Issue # 1180

#2 CHMR CMJ ISSUE 1184

#3 WRGP CMJ Issue # 1178

#5 KWLC CMJ Adds Issue #1179

#5 WTUL CMJ Jazz Adds Issue 1185

#6 KSCL CMJ Jazz Issue #1180

#6 KFAI CMJ Jazz Issue #1183

#8 WERU CMJ Jazz Issue 1181

#8 KZSC CMJ ISSUE 1184