

New York Voices at The Egg

On February 2, 2002 a near capacity audience at The Egg enjoyed an excellent performance by a stellar jazz vocal group, The New York Voices, who had a week earlier done the same in a weeklong engagement at New York City's BlueNote.

The jazz phrasing of their vocal arrangements was inventive and adventuresome; and the frequent times they utilized 3 or 4 part harmony or unison to sing the lead, lent additional richness and strength to their sound.

They drew upon a wide variety of sources, including Duke Ellington, and Woody Herman from their latest CD, "Sing, Sing, Sing"; Antonio Carlos Jobim (Lauren Kinhan's "Quiet Nights" was gorgeous); Paul Simon ("Cecilia" and "Loves Me Like A Rock", from their CD of his work) and the songbook standards ("I'll Be Seeing You", "Save Your Love for Me" and "Stardust").

Of special interest was the obvious pleasure Kim Nazarian, an Albany area native who sang the night before with her father's local area's band, was experiencing by being home and singing so well, especially on "Stardust".

Darmon Meader displayed a propulsive sound on both tenor vocals and tenor saxophone; while Peter Eldridge's resonant baritone and occasional bass voice provided a strong foundation.

Clearly, they merit consideration up with Manhattan Transfer and other quality current groups as true keepers of the flame earlier lit by pioneering groups like the Mills Brothers, Lambert, Hendricks & Ross, the Four Freshmen and the Hi Lo's.