

REVIEW OF ROZ CORRAL JUNE 9 PERFORMANCE AT HOTEL KITANO

Thursday, June 7, was not only a wonderful setting and band to see & hear Roz Corral, but also the opportunity to share in her proud, open celebration of her 60th birthday. She had told me she has NO SECRETS, which I applaud almost as loudly as I do her always superior vocals.

The Hotel Kitano Lounge (Park Ave and 38th St in Manhattan) is a decidedly upscale, beautifully constructed and furnished venue with a beautiful second story view of the Park Ave surroundings. It was packed with dozens of knowledgeable, appreciative fans, including a number of music folk: Jeanie Wilson, Barbara Lea, Roger Schore, Linda Ciofalo, Barbara Sfraga, Amy London & husband, guitarist Roni Ben Hur, guitarist Gene Bertocini and others that I apologize for missing or misspelling names.

The trio was, as one would expect from Roz, simply first rate. Ben Street is a bassist who has played in a number of truly innovative, demanding groups such as Orange Turned to Blue. Drummer Clarence Penn's versatility extends from his own stimulating CD's to supporting renowned trumpeter Dave Douglas's quintet to Maria Schneider's Orchestra to numerous other settings. And last, but certainly not least Roz' long-time formidable cohort, guitarist/arranger John Hart, whose support of numerous NYC singers, his own seven CD's and work behind leaders such as Jimmy Smith, Lou Donaldson, James Moody and the Maria Schneider Orchestra has been exemplary.

After having done numerous reviews of Roz Corral since first being bowled over by her over six years ago, it's a challenge to find meaningful new ways to describe the unique and exquisite approach she has to songs. However, as I sat and listened to the 24 songs (listed below) of both sets, a few key words kept resonating in my mind: CONTROLLED, KNOWING, HONEST, STRONG and EVER-LITING (most would say swinging).

Hopefully, she'll fill in any holes or corrections to these following set lists, which were excellent selected, paced and sung. I'm just glad I was able to make one of my now infrequent trips down for this very warm, very uplifting evening.

FIRST SET

1. Too Close For Comfort
2. Somewhere in the Hills
3. Devil May Care
4. September Song
5. Anyone Can Whistle
6. Spring Will be a Little Late This Year
7. Let's Fall in Love
8. The Thrill is Gone
9. Baby, You Should Know It
10. (A beautiful ballad - something like Whispering Your Name ?? - not sure of correct title)
11. Sometimes I'm happy
12. Clear Out of This World

SECOND SET

1. Hello Young Lovers
2. Witchcraft
3. Agua de Beber
4. I Will wait for You
5. I Get Along Without You Very Well
6. No Strings
7. (Not sure of title - maybe, "If You Believe You Are Mine")
8. You Won't Forget Me

- 9. My Heart Stood Still**
- 10.I'll Never Be the same**
- 11.Someone's Stepping in, While You're Stepping Out**
- 12.Something's Gotta Give**

Tom Pierce.