

Choice Cuts



by *Cam Miller*



Stephanie Trick, Something More, Victoria Company Records, 15 Selections, TT = 60:47

Stephanie Trick is up to her (old ?) tricks because she continues to be one of the brightest young pianists on the jazz scene. But she's also up to a decidedly new trick, too. It's her first recording with accompanists: two of the best in drummer Danny Coots and bassist Jay Hungerford.

Coots hangs his hat in the Titan Hot Seven wardrobe while Hungerford is a fixture in the Cornet Chop Suey rhythm section.

The change of scenery provides an excellent opportunity to witness Trick's command of stride piano and

goes a long way to dispel the misplaced notion she's mainly a ragtime 88er.

Still in her 20s, the St. Louis charmer pays tribute to a litany of striders that ranges from James P. Johnson of yesteryear to the Dick Hyman and Rossano Sportiello of today with bows along the way to Fats Waller and others produced during the same era.

The disc further demonstrates she's not beholden to any one musical genre. Check out Meade Lux Lewis's "Honky Tonk Train Blues" a generous ration of boogie and the classically trained pianist's veddy formal introduction to "In The Shade of The Old Apple Tree."

But for sheer beauty, her warm reading of the "These Foolish Things," composed by the team of Eric Maschwitz and Jack Strachey is unequalled elsewhere on the album.

That said, "Tango Seville" gets the blood to flowing with Coots contributing solid support and Trick takes Ellington's "Black Beauty" at a brisk pace before closing up shop with a rousing take of the strider, "Keep Your Temper."

GRADE: A

(Ordering Info: 775-557-8374; info@stephanietrick.com)