

Song Infos

for the release of the CD "Nuages" on September 6. 2004

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Jenny Evans CD “NUAGES” 2004

1 Mad About The Boy from the revue Words and Music

music and words Noël Coward 1932

Noël Coward was an extremely prolific composer and I think his lyrics can be compared to those of Cole Porter. In the original stage version it was sung by a “society lady” and a lot later Mr. Coward used to sing this song live with new words, including the lovely line “when I told my wife (that I was mad about the boy) she said she’d never heard such nonsense in her life.”

2 Remember Me from the opera Dido and Aeneas

music Henry Purcell, words Nathaniel Tate 1684

This is Dido’s death aria from the Baroque opera Dido and Aeneas. I was very impressed when I heard it and knew immediately that it would lend itself to a jazz rendition. In the original verse Dido sings “Death is a welcome guest.” I thought, I can’t sing that. Still, it is really beautiful so the band play the verse as an introduction.

3 Nuages music Django Reinhart 1943, words Jacques Larue 1944

I’ve sung with many gypsy musicians and this is my tribute to their music. Like so many chansons sung in French the lyrics are very poetic. These by Jacques Larue have actually very little to do with nuages / clouds at all but with saying goodbye – poignant, when you realise it was written during World War II. Mulo Francel’s idea to accompany me on the mandolin has really paid off.

4 Our Revels Now Are Ended from the play The Tempest

music John Dankworth 1978, words William Shakespeare ca. 1610

John Dankworth’s setting of Prospero’s speech from the end of The Tempest reminds me very much of Debussy or of Erik Satie. It leaves a lot of space for these marvellous words by Shakespeare. They have a lot to do with the way actors and musicians build up a dream world into which listeners can escape. That was the reason why we decided to record it just accompanied by Walter Lang on the piano.

5 WithinYou, Without You from The Beatles album Sergeant Pepper

music and words George Harrison 1967

When I was a young girl I really enjoyed listening to my brother’s records and this was the first Beatles song I ever actually registered as being by George Harrison. We decided not to use a tabla or any other Indian instruments on it as that would have made the listener compare it to the original. Mulo Francel is not playing a didgeridoo. It’s a bass clarinet.

6 Flow My Tears from The Second Book of Songs and Ayres

music and words John Dowland 1600

I have always been a great admirer of music and literature of the Elizabethan age. John Dowland’s songs can be looked on as the first Kunstlieder in music history and these lyrics are pure poetry. He wrote

specifically for the lute but my setting with piano trio and soprano sax give the song another dimension.

7 I'm Alone After All German original title Wenn die Sonne hinter den Dächern versinkt music Peter Kreuder 1936, words Jenny Evans 2003

On my last CD I recorded a song in German by Peter Kreuder, Für eine Nacht voller Seligkeit. He was an excellent pianist and loved playing jazz. My thanks to Ingrid Kreuder for letting me write English lyrics to his songs. If Frank Sinatra was still alive I think he could have sung this one. I can imagine him singing it with a cigarette in one hand and a glass of bourbon in the other.

8 The Feeling of You music Swedish traditional, words Jenny Evans 2003

This is a Swedish traditional melody and the original has lyrics by the poet Anders Fryxell, describing his love of the Värmland area in Sweden. When I was writing the words I was influenced by the original but I didn't want to bring nationalism over so I wrote about how nature and the countryside remind one of a person one loves or once loved.

9 Veris Leta Facies from Carmina Burana

music Carl Orff 1932, words anonymous ca. 1300

I first introduced Veris Leta Facies, a hymn to Spring from Carl Orff's Carmina Burana in one of my Spring concerts; Latin is a marvellous language to sing and the typical drone accompaniment is a good improvisational vehicle. Orff easily could have put bar lines into his score because it's actually all in $\frac{3}{4}$ time. A new jazz waltz is born!

10 No Love Without Tears music Dusko Goykovich 1997, words Jenny Evans 1999

Unlike other compositions of Dusko Goykovich I've written lyrics to I retained his title: No love without tears. That's a home truth - quite philosophical and it's also a lovely ballad. I had no trouble at all writing lyrics to it. I'd be interested to see if anyone recognises the quote from the Ancient Greek playwright, Aeschylus.

11 What Joy music Dusko Goykovich 1994, words Jenny Evans 1999

1. Mad About The Boy

from the revue Words and Music, music and words Noël Coward 1932

Noël Coward was an extremely prolific composer and his lyrics can easily be compared to those of Cole Porter. In the original stage version, this song had three verses, each sung in turn by three different female characters – a prostitute, a schoolgirl and this verse by a society lady.

2. Remember Me

from the opera Dido and Aeneas, music Henry Purcell, words Nathaniel Tate 1684

When Jenny Evans first heard Dido's death aria from the Baroque opera Dido and Aeneas she knew it I knew it would lend itself to jazz. Not the original verse though, where Dido asks her maid to help her and sings, "Death is a welcome guest." It works very well however, as an instrumental introduction.

3. Nuages

music Django Reinhardt 1943, words Jacques Larue 1944

Jenny Evans has sung with many gypsy musicians and this is her tribute to their music. Like so many chansons sung in French the lyrics are very poetic. These by Jacques Larue have very little to do with nuages / clouds at all but with saying goodbye – poignant, when you realise it was written during World War II.

4. Our Revels Now Are Ended

from the play The Tempest, music John Dankworth 1978, words William Shakespeare ca. 1610

This is a setting of Prospero's speech from the end of The Tempest by the English jazz musician John Dankworth. Its impressionism is reminiscent of Debussy and Erik Satie. It leaves a lot of space for Shakespeare's marvellous words; they describe how actors and musicians build up a dream world into which listeners can escape.

5. Within You, Without You

from The Beatles album Sergeant Pepper, music and words George Harrison 1967

Unlike the great original arrangement of this song on the Sergeant Pepper album Jenny Evans decided not to use a tabla or any other Indian instruments in her version of it. The oriental atmosphere is evoked simply with a bass clarinet drone, plucked piano strings and percussion.

6. Flow My Tears

from The Second Book of Songs and Ayres, music and words John Dowland 1600

Jenny Evans has always been a great admirer of music and literature of the Elizabethan age. John Dowland's songs can be looked on as the first Kunstlieder in music history and these lyrics are pure poetry. Originally for the lute, this setting with piano trio and soprano sax give the song another dimension.

7. I'm Alone After All

German original title Wenn die Sonne hinter den Dächern versinkt

music Peter Kreuder 1936, words Jenny Evans 2003

On her last CD Jenny Evans recorded a song in German by Peter Kreuder, Für eine Nacht voller Seligkeit. His widow Ingrid Kreuder was thrilled that a jazz singer was using his material (he was an excellent pianist and loved playing jazz) and gave Jenny permission write English lyrics to his songs.

8. The Feeling of You

music Swedish traditional, words Jenny Evans 2003

This Swedish folksong Ack Värmeland, du sköna was discovered by jazz musicians (e.g. Miles Davis and Stan Getz) in the 50s and it has often been recorded as an up-tempo number. Jenny has written new lyrics and sings it, as in the original, as a ballad.

9. Veris Leta Facies

from Carmina Burana, music Carl Orff 1932, words anonymous ca. 1300

Carl Orff was very interested in improvised music and Jenny Evans found out that this song from

Carmina Burana lends itself to jazz improvisation, as here in $\frac{3}{4}$ time, and that Latin is a marvellous language to sing.

10. No Love Without Tears

music Dusko Goykovich 1997, words Jenny Evans 1999

Ever since they recorded the CD Shiny Stockings together, Jenny Evans has written lyrics to many of Dusko Goykovich's compositions; she rarely, however, retains the original title as in this song. The title No love without tears was so inspiring she had no difficulty at all thinking up these lyrics.

11. What Joy

music Dusko Goykovich 1994, words Jenny Evans 1999

On her recent CDs for ENJA Jenny Evans has written lyrics to and new arrangements for a number of Dusko Goykovich's compositions; with this hard bop-influenced rhythm everyone gets the chance to jazz it up.