



ORLA MURPHY:
WISFUL THINKING
(FMRCD255-0108)

Orla Murphy (vocals),
Simon Wallace (piano),
Ping Lee (guitar),
Julie Walkington (bass)

This is up and coming Vocalist, Orla Murphy's debut album, which she co-produced with Simon Wallace. The album is gaining notable praise from jazz musicians and critics alike. A big fan of Stevie Wonder and Joni Mitchell Orla pays homage to them by her emotional interpretations of their respective songs 'Make Sure Your Sure' and 'Be Cool'. However, her unique cover of Sting's 'Fragile' with guitarist Ping Lee sets the tone of the wonderful album.

This release coincides with Orla's first Jazz Services tour in England which begins at the National Portrait Gallery in London on the 30th May 2008. She is accompanied by one of the finest jazz pianists in Europe, Giovanni Mazzarino, who is over from Palermo especially for the tour. On bass is Steve Rose and Andy Trim on drums. Orla (Belfast born and raised, and London based) has been active on the London jazz scene for the last few years and has performed and worked with many of London's leading jazz musicians including Jonathan Gee, Simon Wallace, Julie Walkington, Neville Malcolm, and Winston Clifford, to name a few. She has also performed throughout the UK, in Italy, Ireland and Scotland, with notable performances at the Derry Jazz & Big Band Festival in Northern Ireland (May '07), the Glasgow International Jazz Festival (June '07) and Swansea Jazzland, Wales (July '07).

"The first thing that strikes you when listening to this debut album from Belfast-born, London-based Vocalist Orla Murphy is her lustrous timbre. Sounding like the forgotten lovechild of Joni Mitchell and Terry Callier - seamlessly combining the liquid phrasing of the former with the soulful sonorities of the latter - Murphy's captivating tone really draws the listener into the song. It comes as no surprise when she dusts down Mitchell's 'Be Cool' midway through the set. The 11-track collection is nicely balanced, from the full quartet textures of 'One for my Baby (And One More For The Road)' to the stripped down voice/bass duet 'The Old Country', in which Murphy's great feel and time come strongly to the fore. Also including an intimate cover of Sting's 'Fragile' with guitarist Ping Lee, an impassioned 'Make Sure Your Sure' (one of Stevie Wonder's standout songs penned for Spike Lee's, Jungle Fever) with pianist Simon Wallace, a nicely languorous 'I've Gotta Right To Sing The Blues' and a gently swinging 'Whisper Not'. This impressive debut should help to put this affecting singer well and truly on the map."

PETER QUINN, 'JAZZWISE'.

"Orla Murphy has a voice as warm, lyrical and expressive - as she is herself."

TINA MAY, Jazz Vocalist & Director of the Loire Vocal Jazz Summer School.



1. Fragile (4.18)
2. The Old Country (3.25)
3. Make Sure Your Sure (4.21)
4. One For My Baby
(And One More For The Road) (3.25)
5. Comes Love (3.48)
6. Be Cool (2.58)
7. I've Gotta Right To
Sing The Blues (3.54)
8. Whisper Not (3.11)
9. Tenderly (3.06)
10. That Old Feeling (3.23)
11. God Bless The Child (3.56)

Produced by Orla Murphy and Simon Wallace
Recorded and mixed by Simon Wallace in April & May 2007
Mastered by Dominique Brethes at Wolf Studios in London
Graphics by Hugo Tait

