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CINZIA SPATA: The Voice as Instrument, March 27, 2011

By **Grady Harp** (Los Angeles, CA United States) - ([TOP 10 REVIEWER](#))

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Cinzia Spata is an Italian bombshell how is as smart and gifted and creative a jazz stylist as any around. Not only is she a personality to deal with in the manner in which she involves the listener in her music making, but she is also a composer, arranger, and lyricist who seems at home in almost every turn of the jazz kaleidoscope. True to her professionalism, she considers herself as singer to be simply one of the instrumentalists with whom she collaborates. And she happens to keep strong company: Bruce Barth, piano, Dave Clark, bass, Yoron Israel, drums, Ken Cervenka, trumpet/flugelhorn, and George Garzone, tenor sax. It is a unified and polished group and listening to the varied tracks on this compendium of works proves that each is a soloist in his own right.

Spata elects to open this collection of eleven songs with Keith Jarrett's 'Questar' and provides some of the most interesting and endlessly creative scat singing around: later in the group she employs this talent in her own 'Carlos'. But for all the jazz pleasures she owns Cinzia Spata can also croon a soft ballad like Bill Evans/Cinzia Spata's 'Very Early'. Liquid gold here. She shares the moods and rhythms of such well known works as 'Tea for Two' (like you've never heard it sung before) and Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'My Favorite Things' - a feast all its own. But aside from all the accolades of what the lady and her cohorts can do here is the overriding fact that Cinzia Spate has a gorgeous voice, something that all manner of scat and quirky arrangements can't hide. This Toast of Italy has it. Be prepared.

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