

# Deanne Matley: Because I Loved

By **Raul da Gama** - May 23, 2018



This young Calgary-based vocalist, Deanne Matley, is enjoying a growing reputation. The voice itself is light and lyrical, not without metal. Miss Matley is a swing-driven vocalist who here, often breathes the air of the wistful, the wistful, the melancholy. She can also transform a vocal line into a lyrical and melismatic aria. Her diction is exceptional; her tone is pure, natural and sublime and she brings an enormous colour palette to this music. Best of all, she lets the listener hear to her in a very personal way and there is evidence of

imagination in the ones that she writes. But every song gets the same special performance from Miss Matley.

Several programmes by women vocalists have been centred on heartbreak, separation, divorce – and the music describes aching sorrows and pities, but this one by Miss Matley, in its own shade of heartbreak and loss is also one that doesn't wallow in a mushy morass but rather soars into beautifully imagined places, emphasising that somehow wonder and beauty also arise from elemental pain. And she is utterly convincing in this regard – both in "Is of Gold" as well as in "Necessary Evil" where she shares the stage with the incredible Lee.

Miss Matley gets right inside the music of *Because I Loved* – in that part of the recording that has been written by others as well as in her own compositions, characterizing the music by bringing the storyline of each vignette to lyrical life. She is also joined by a wonderful and empathetic group of musicians – especially pianist Paul Shrofel and guitarist Steve also saxophonist Al McLean, trumpeter Andy King and trombonist Jean-Nicolas Trépanier, bassist Adrian Vedady, the mighty Jim Doxas on drums, and percussionist Kiko. The quartet adds not only body to the music on which they appear, but in addition, a subtle dimension to voicing.

Experiencing this recording, the intensity, certainly draws one in to Miss Matley's emotional vortex. If it's hard to separate the work from the emotional circumstances in which it was produced, perhaps one shouldn't even try. Instead giving oneself over completely to the emotional roller-coaster enables one to be joined in Miss Matley's journey from sorrow to ultimate joy.

Track list – 1: The Moon Is Made of Gold; 2: Sugar; 3: The After Thought; 4: Cat

5: Not My Only One; 6: Open Arms; 7: My Favourite Distraction; 8: So Long You  
10: Forget Me; 11: Necessary Evil; 12: The Wine We Drink

Personnel – Deanne Matley: vocals; Ranee Lee: guest vocalist; Paul Shrofel: pian  
keyboards; Adrian Vedady: contrabass; Jim Doxas: drums; Steve Raegele: guitar  
percussion; Al McLean: saxophone; Andy King: trumpet; Jean-Nicolas Trottier: tr  
Bevan-Baker: violin; Kate Maloney: violin; Jennifer Thiessen: viola; Thomas Bear

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Runtime – 42:24

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### **Raul da Gama**

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writer whose profound analysis is reinforced by his deep understanding of mus  
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