



Diana Krall

The Look Of Love
Verve

Universal Music certainly knows how to market vocalist Diana Krall, whose new CDs have been selling like hotcakes practically before they hit the shelves. Combine the sultry sound of her voice, her choice of material and backing musicians, the fact that she plays piano too, her looks, her constant exposure on TV, her Grammy Award and the exquisite photography adorning her albums and you certainly have a winner. The Look Of Love is destined to be a hot seller for quite a while. Featuring ten well-known love songs, including Cry Me A River, I Remember You, The Night We Called It A Day and the title track, the album finds Krall backed by such players as Russell Malone, Christian McBride, Peter Erskine and others. In addition, Claus Ogerman adds some lushness with his arranging & directing of either the London Symphony Orchestra or a Los Angeles session orchestra . Very sweet stuff from Diana Krall.

By Bill Wahl



Diana Krall

From This Moment On Verve

Since 1993 when she emerged on Canada's Justin Time Records, singer/pianist Diana Krall had been releasing albums of standards, and steadily building a larger and larger fanbase. She followed with releases on GRP and Impulse before signing to Verve seven years ago. By then, her career was really taking off, the awards were coming in and she was hitting the top of the jazz charts. She had become one of the most, of not *the* most, successful recording artists and concert draws in jazz. She married Elvis Costello and in 2004 she released a fine disc titled **The Girl In The Other Room**, changing direction from the standards fare and featuring six songs she co-wrote with Costello and other non-standard material. But her fans who missed the standards need not worry, as she's returned to that fold with **From This Moment On**.

I believe that she was pregnant with her first child when this was recorded, and this set of 11 standards might just be her best effort yet. She is accompanied by the Clayton/Hamilton Jazz Orchestra for eight of the tracks, and the other three find her at the helm of a quartet with Anthony Wilson/guitar, John Clayton/bass and Jeff Hamilton/drums. Diana co-produced this with her longtime producer Tommy LiPuma – who is definitely someone who has contributed to her incredible success. With every new release she is constantly sounding more secure both in her vocals and piano work, and some of the songs here are much more uptempo than we normally hear from her. But there are a number of sweet, laid back ballads on tap, including “Little Girl Blue” and “Willow Weep For Me,” plus the Antonio Carlos Jobim bossa nova “How Insensitive.”

If you have a Diana Krall fan on your gift list, you won't have to worry about whether they will like this one. You just have to worry about whether they have already scarfed one up!

By Bill Wahl