

Sheryl B. Marymount is a jazz singer and songwriter who is based in the San Francisco Bay area. Since 2012 she has performed what she calls "jazz cabaret," mixing together original songs and vintage standards in her musical revues "Sugar, Refined" and "Crushed On You." Her most recent show, titled "Sassy Sweet Summertime Treat," has resulted in her debut recording, *Complicated Needs*.

Ms. Marymount has an attractive voice that perfectly fits her saucy and witty style. She puts on a colorful show yet fully understands the lyrics that she is singing. On *Complicated Needs* she is joined by The Stellar Six, a sextet comprised of pianist--keyboardist Eddie Mendenhall, bassist Dan Robbins, drummer Jason Lewis, trumpeter Jeff Lewis, Kristen Strom on tenor and flute, and trombonist Dave Gregoric, the musical director who is responsible for most of the arrangements. The musicians are excellent and there are plenty of fine solos sprinkled throughout the set.

The first four songs on *Complicated Needs* are originals composed or co-written by the singer. "Man For Me" has some dramatic trumpet, a sensuous vocal and excellent spots for tenor, trombone and piano. "Lover" is based on the chords of "I Can't Give You Anything But Love" but has different melody and lyrics. The swinging piece features a colorful arrangement that alternates the horns with the singer and Sheryl B.'s closing vocal sounds particularly fetching. "Complicated Needs" is a witty piece while the bluesy "Junkie" is about being thoroughly addicted to someone else.

Rather than perform George Gershwin's "Someone To Watch Over Me" at the usual ballad pace, the band version is taken at a swinging tempo. It is filled with happy optimism about the future with Sheryl B. bringing it to a strong conclusion with some high notes. "Dream A Little Dream Of Me" is a change of pace, given a contemporary and funky treatment that works. "You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To" is also transformed a bit, turned into a Latinized celebration. The program concludes with a second but very different version of "Someone To Watch Over Me," a warm ballad treatment with the singer being accompanied by guest pianist Douglas Amster.

*Complicated Needs* is an easily enjoyable set that serves an excellent introduction to Sheryl B. Marymount.

- Scott Yanow

Author of *The Jazz Singers and Jazz On Record 1917-76*