



June 28th, 2016

June Garber, a vibrant jazz vocalist from Toronto, has released her third album *This I Know*. She's gathered energy from the experiences of her life so far, and infused 12 songs with it.

Garber has always been known for her warm, effusive vocal style but now her voice has another layer of burnishing that adds even greater depth. This is how jazz is sung.

"Under the Jacaranda Tree" is a lilting, tribute to her native South Africa and our introduction to Garber. We are carried on the ebb and flow of her voice as she delivers a smoldering "Hit Me with a Hot Note", and puts her wistful spin on "It was a Very Good Year", a song that is considered a Sinatra standard. She has her own kind of mash up by combining an Adele tune, "Rumour Has It" with "Fever". The transition is seamless. "The Man that Got Away" begs to be listened to in the blue hours with a glass of something amber coloured. Garber ends the album with a sweet and vulnerable "Unbroken". The song carries a chasm of grief created by the loss of her husband, yet at the same time you get the feeling of hopefulness that it will be filled with great love and love of life. I can't listen to it without a tear in the corner of my eye and a bit of an ache in my heart.

The musicians on the album are stellar in the way they support the songs and step forward with their own musical conversations. From lingering washes of snares and cymbals by drummer Ben Wittman, to gentle and intuitive piano work by Mark Kieswetter, and the smooth, mood making energy of John MacMurchy on saxophone. The bass is full and expressive in the hands of George Koller, and listening to Guido Basso's trumpet with June Garber is like dropping in on a conversation they are having.

I play *This I Know* in my car, and I play it at home, in the blue hours, with a glass of something amber.

- Shelley Gummeson