

DEBBIE GIFFORD

Critic Reviews

"Her voice goes straight to the heart and that also contains passion, love, effort, and emotional depth... Debbie shows her talent and her beautiful, influential and intentional voice (that she uses with an incredible balance). Furthermore her voice is weightless and it gives an amazing interpretation."

Fazio Bartocci
Program Director "Women in Jazz", Dot Radio, Italy

"It has long been true that there is great jazz talent to be found in virtually every major American city. Cleveland may not be known as a jazz mecca but it is the home base for Debbie Gifford, an extraordinary jazz singer. Debbie Gifford's improvising is subtle and enthusiastic; she knows very well the words she sings... Debbie Gifford is a talent well worth discovering."

Scott Yanow, Author "All Music Guide" & Critic
Los Angeles Jazz Scene Publications

"Her sensual style of phrasing and timing are the very essence of her creativity. Debbie is spellbinding – she holds the audience in the palm of her hand."

Mike Young WKRH 91.5 FM

"Gifford's voice is both smooth and engulfing, wrapping itself around every note and mesmerizing the listener with subtle charm."

John Benson
Entertainment Correspondent, The News Herald

"Debbie Gifford's voice puts a deep and sincere warmth into every song that she grabs and makes her own. This lady definitely climbs inside whatever material she might choose, and she breathes life into a song, whether the words are her own, or from another pen."

Skoot Larson, Author & Music Critic, LA Jazz Review

"Debbie Gifford helped redefine the elegant sophistication that we associate with New York City Jazz performances. Her performance at the famed Birdland Jazz Club offered the listener a feminine contrast to the roaring thunder of the Birdland Big Band. Debbie gave a performance worthy of the best that Manhattan has to offer. "

Jerry Jelinek, WKHR 91.5FM.

"No woman ever became great by imitation. Debbie Gifford was unique in her spectacular show at Birdland. A rare treasure that dazzled the audience with her one of a kind show that night."

Norm N. Nite "Mr. Music", Sirius & XM Satellite Radio,
Author of "Rock On" Series.

"Debbie gives a fresh, new approach to some familiar evergreens we have all heard before but there is a difference. Debbie has given these songs a new reading. There is something else that really stands out and that is Debbie's talent...Her voice is sincere and she interprets a song as if Mr. Gershwin, Van Morrison, or Harold Arlen wrote it just for her."

**Jim Stone, Host of Big Band Swing
WLNZ 89.7 FM, Lansing, MI**

"Debbie Gifford is a classically trained singer who can belt out a jazz standard brimming with personality, as if the lyric and melody were written just for her. It can't be easy to re-fill "Over the Rainbow" or "Summertime" with vim and fresh stardust- but Debbie Gifford pulls it off. You can tell by her open-hearted performances that this is a lady who holds nothing back. Her sound is ultra-smooth, fitting snugly around the curves of Gifford's elegant, dressy vocals. You can't stop a diva, not even a really nice one like Debbie Gifford, the thrill isn't gone, as B.B. King lamented- Debbie took it and shares it with audiences every time she's near a microphone."

**Douglas Max Utter, Editor
Artefakt Magazine, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio**

"DEBBIE GIFFORD - ...my audience loves her. Debbie handles everything well and keeps the standards extremely interesting."

**"The Enjoyment of Jazz"
Jerry Atkins, Music/Jazz Director
KTXK FM 91.5, Texarkana, TX**

"Cleveland Jazz Singer Debbie Gifford is a well-trained veteran. When it comes to jazz, Gifford is making her mark showcasing her grasp of the genre, with feathery, unforced interpretations of such standards as "Moondance", "Summertime", and "When I Fall in Love". Songs like "Sway" and "Quite Nights of Quiet Stars" with their rhythmic Latin flavor play to her strengths: nuanced phrasing and sultriness."

**Anastasia Pantsios, Staff Writer
Cleveland Free Times**

"Every song I sing," She says, "I try to tell the story of the song to the audience and hope they feel my emotion." Unlike many jazz singers, she usually alters the melody of the song only slightly, but loves to elaborate on the phrasing and put accents in different places. After spending years in classical music, musical theatre and big bands, Debbie says, "Only when I got to jazz did I feel my ears really developed listening skills." Like any jazz musician, she interacts with the instrumentalists performing with her, but she does not permit the performance of the song to overpower the story she is telling. It's a refreshing approach in an era when so many jazz performances go so far out, melodically and harmonically, that the original song is almost forgotten."

**Joe Mosbrook
Cleveland Jazz Historian, WCPN 90.3 FM**

"Debbie Gifford is one up-and-coming singer/composer doing much to bring the role of women in jazz to the forefront. It looks like there is no stopping this talented lady – the sky is the limit for Debbie Gifford and Cleveland is proud of this raven-haired songstress as she carries on the tradition of women's contribution to jazz!"

**Cat Lilly, Staff Writer
North Coast Voice, Cleveland, Ohio**

"Gifford has a seductive voice, is an imaginative improviser and puts a lot of feeling into each tune. She knows how to pick the right tunes and musicians for the task. A powerful storyteller, she selected an array of favorites. Gifford makes the gorgeous Harold Arlen tune "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" into a passion-filled gem."

**Nancy Ann Lee
JAZZ & BLUES Report, Cleveland, Ohio**