

Liane Carroll

Up and Down

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‘Deeply soulful, wonderfully honest’ **The Times**

‘The real thing’ **The Independent on Sunday**

‘Utterly brilliant’ **Time Out**

London born, Hastings raised, award-winning singer-pianist **Liane Carroll** has worked with everyone from *Paul McCartney* and *Gerry Rafferty* to the live ‘drum n bass outfit’ *London Electricity*. But it is only those who have caught her doing her own thing so brilliantly that are in on the secret. Carroll is arguably one of the world’s great jazz singers, capable of jaw dropping passages of vocal virtuosity and swinging like hell one moment and a heart breaking tender interpretation the next, her performances are underpinned by a soulful honesty that gives her an ‘on the edge’ gravitas that is utterly gripping. A classically trained pianist since she was three, before finding her voice and falling in love with jazz and soul, with Carroll you feel that this isn’t just what she does, singing it what she has to do! And it is this compulsion that makes her music so powerfully involving as she brings all the complex turbulence of modern life to the microphone with her.

Up and Down is in many ways Carroll’s first true ‘studio’ album, produced by Multi-Grammy nominated producer and trumpeter **James McMillan**. It features a wide range of settings for her spectacular voice from the stripped back intimacy of piano and vocals to the rich warmth of strings and orchestral brass. Recorded over the course of nine months in **London, Hastings, Brighton, Prague and Memphis, Tennessee** it features the cream of US and UK jazz soloists, with **Kenny Wheeler, Kirk Whalum** and **Julian Siegel** to name but a few. The result is a rich record capturing the essence of Carroll’s brilliance and made possible by the generosity of wonderful musicians and arrangers who have literally given their music and love to the project.

The album opens with **Buy and Sell** an inspired tribute to Carrolls beloved Laura Nyro. **What Are You Doing The Rest Of Your Life** is a heartbreaking, and powerful version, which sets Carroll’s voice against the beautiful string and big band writing of Grammy nominated LA based arranger, Chris Walden. **Moanin’** is Carroll’s arrangement of the classic Bobby Timmons tune and features the soulful sax of multiple Grammy winning Kirk Whalum. **Take Me Home** is a touching trio rendition of the Tom Waits classic, a firm favourite in her live repertoire. **Turn Out The Stars** is perhaps at the emotional heart of this record. A heart-breaking vocal performance, this track features the legendary Kenny Wheeler, superbly expressive at 82 years old. **Some Children See Him** is a real departure for Carroll. Modern American Classical composer, Alfred Burt’s Christmas song is arranged for string orchestra and orchestral brass as we hear Carroll’s vocal move flawlessly between delicate lyricism and soulful power. **Witchcraft** captured ‘live in the studio’ is a bebop juggernaut of a tune charging full speed at the listener and also captured live is the wonderful **My Funny Valentine** which features producer James McMillan on Flugelhorn and long-time Carroll collaborator Mark Edwards on Piano. While **Make Someone Happy**, another trio reading, features Julian Siegel on Saxophone, and Simon Purcell on Piano. Finally the album closes with a deliciously introspective reading of Michael McDonald’s **I Can Let Go Now** where Carroll really lives the emotion of the song. And that’s the power of Liane Carroll, whether UP or DOWN no one sings the truth like she does!!

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