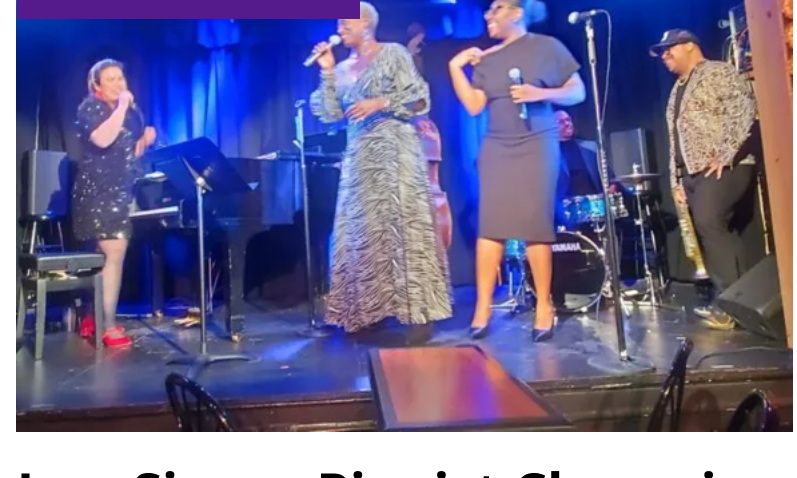


- Jazz Singer-Pianist Champion Fulton's "Flying High" Soared at The Triad
- Sally Mayes Presents "Now and Then: Jazz Standard Time" on Wednesday, February 21 at The Green Room 42
- Versatile Singer Tony Middleton Has Died at Age 89
- Lucille Carr-Kaffashan Returns to Don't Tell Mama on Saturdays, February 17 and March 16
- Mink Stole and Peaches Christ Perform on Friday, February 16 and Saturday, February 17 at The Green Room 42
- The Debonair Steve Ross, The Crown Prince of Cabaret, Answers Six Questions
- Maggie Kneip Debuts "Stuck in a Moment" at The Laurie Beechman Theatre on Thursday, February 15
- Lianne Marie Dobbs Appears in "The Windmills of My Mind... For Dusty Springfield" on Saturday, February 17 at The Green Room 42
- The Evening Was a Swingin' High Celebrating Peggy Lee and Frank Sinatra at NJPAC
- Julie Benko Returns to Birdland with Euphonic Gumbo on Monday, February 12

RECENT COMMENTS

- JEFF ZELINKA** ON Hubert "Tex" Arnold, Pianist, Music Director, Arranger and Composer, Has Died
- CHRISTINE MOORE SMITH** ON Saluting Lee Roy Reams' Journey from Covington, KY to the Great White Way
- KATHLEEN SPANARKE** ON Carole Demas and Paula Janis Live-Stream "Friends Forever" on Friday, June 4
- SALVO L. ON** Upper Westside Jazz Club Cleopatra's Needle: Another Cultural Casualty Among Many
- HARRIET JACOBS** ON Six Questions With Pianist-Joe and Piano Bar Stalwart, Joe Regan

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Jazz Singer-Pianist Champion Fulton's "Flying High" Soared at The Triad

By Andrew Poretz ***Jazz singer-pianist Champion Fulton is a favorite of this reviewer. She is a dynamic young singer with a fairly flawless voice and great jazz chops, both as a pianist and a vocalist. Fulton [...]

Share this:



Sally Mayes Presents "Now and Then: Jazz Standard Time" on Wednesday, February 21 at The Green Room 42

Tony Award-nominated Broadway star Sally Mayes appears in Now and Then: Jazz Standard Time, the second installment of her new concert series, on Wednesday, February 21 at 7:00 PM at The Green Room 42. The [...]

Share this:



Versatile Singer Tony Middleton Has Died at Age 89

Especially known for being the lead of the doo wop group The Willows ("Church Bells May Ring"), versatile singer Tony Middleton passed away on February 7 at age 89. Among his many credits in a [...]

Share this:

CABARET

Lucille Carr-Kaffashan Returns to Don't Tell Mama on Saturdays, February 17 and March 16

Bistro and MAC Hanson Award winning vocalist Lucille Carr-Kaffashan is returning to Don't Tell Mama with a reprise of two shows dedicated to female singer-songwriters. On Saturday, February 17 at 4 PM she will perform [...]

Share this:

DRAG-TASTIC

Mink Stole and Peaches Christ Perform on Friday, February 16 and Saturday, February 17 at The Green Room 42

Cult film icon Mink Stole and San Francisco drag impresario and filmmaker Peaches Christ will play two performances on Friday, February 16 and Saturday, February 17, both at 7:00 PM at The Green Room 42. [...]

Share this:

CABARET

Sally Mayes Presents "Now and Then: Jazz Standard Time" on Wednesday, February 21 at The Green Room 42

February 16, 2024 0

Lucille Carr-Kaffashan Returns to Don't Tell Mama on Saturdays, February 17 and March 16

February 14, 2024 0

Maggie Kneip Debuts "Stuck in a Moment" at The Laurie Beechman Theatre on Thursday, February 15

February 12, 2024 0

Lianne Marie Dobbs Appears in "The Windmills of My Mind... For Dusty Springfield" on Saturday, February 17 at The Green Room 42

February 12, 2024 0

Julie Benko Returns to Birdland with Euphonic Gumbo on Monday, February 12

February 10, 2024 0

Home > Cabaret > Cabaret Reviews > Jazz Singer-Pianist Champion Fulton's "Flying High" Soared at The Triad

Jazz Singer-Pianist Champion Fulton's "Flying High" Soared at The Triad

February 16, 2024 Marilyn Lester Cabaret Reviews, Jazz 0



Photo by Andrew Poretz

By Andrew Poretz***Jazz singer-pianist **Champion Fulton** is a favorite of this reviewer. She is a dynamic young singer with a fairly flawless voice and great jazz chops, both as a pianist and a vocalist.

Fulton is the music director for a new show, *Flying High: Big Band Canaries Who Soared*, which aims to honor the styles and sounds of some of the greatest female jazz vocalists. Fulton typically only accompanies herself, and rarely has the opportunity to work with other singers. She has put together a series of shows in various cities wherein she will work with a variety of guest female singers, along with soloists and backup musicians of either sex. With a Birdland run around the corner, Fulton previewed *Flying High* to a select audience of invited friends and press at the Triad Theatre, an intimate cabaret and concert space above a restaurant on West 72nd Street. While the theater appears to be a restored old vaudeville house, it was actually built in 1984.

For this initial performance, Fulton selected two guest singers, Ekep Nkwelle and Lezlie Harrison, along with trumpeter Nicholas Payton as guest soloist. She was backed by bassist Dylan Shamata and drummer Willie Jones III.

The jazz chanteuse came to the stage wearing a short, sparkly black dress with black stockings, bright red shoes, a red floret bauble earring, and a bejeweled headband. She got the set off to a great start by singing and playing "All of Me" (Gerald Marks; Seymour Simons). She then brought Nicholas Payton up for an instrumental of "Just One of Those Things" (Cole Porter). Payton, with excellent tone and precision playing, led off with the melody. It was quite a sight to watch Fulton's hands flying on an aggressive and terrific solo, with a staccato attack that brought to mind Nat King Cole's playing. Then Jones, Payton and Fulton traded fours.

Ekep Nkwelle is an exceptional young singer from the Washington, DC area. Her smooth, delicious voice is a delight on the ears. Her singing brings the best aspects of early Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn and Dianne Reeves. She honored the great Betty Carter with the jazzy "Social Call," and Jo Stafford with "You Belong to Me." She expressed having a surprisingly emotional connection to the latter song, and it showed in her delivery.

Lezlie Harrison, a statuesque woman with a shock of white hair, performed "Sweet Georgia Brown," a song she always associated with the Harlem Globetrotters (it was their whistled theme song). She followed with an ode to Billie Holiday, singing her composition, "Fine and Mellow" with a sultry delivery. Over at the piano, Fulton could be spied mouthing the lyric "My man don't love me." Harrison is a good singer, though she seemed a bit off her game on this evening.

Fulton, clearly champing at the bit to get back on the mic, returned for a pair of vocals, "sticking with the Billie Holiday theme," for "The Man I Love" (George and Ira Gershwin, and "I Cried For You" (Arthur Freed, Gus Arnheim and Abe Lyman). Fulton has a unique vocal rhythmic style, often intentionally falling behind the tune and then catching up. She does this so flawlessly you might not notice, but it's impossible to be bored by Fulton's singing.

All hands were on deck for a finale honoring Peggy Lee with a fast, bluesy "Why Don't You Do Right" (Joe McCoy). Each of the singers has a funny and distinctive female voice. Fulton added a few funny lyric changes here and there, such as "like my other men do" instead of "some other men." They encored with "I Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)" (Duke Ellington). The musicians all traded solos.

This test run was an auspicious start for *Flying High*. It wasn't always clear who the "canary" in question was for each song. The show would likely benefit from some multimedia, adding slides and clips of the vocalists each performer honored. Still, even in its present form, it is likely to be well-received when it debuts at Birdland on March 8. Ultimately, Fulton certainly proved to be as fine an accompanist as she is a world-class singer-pianist.

Photos by Andrew Poretz

Share this:

- Related
- CD Releases: A Handful of New and Noteworthy Albums May 7, 2023 In "Album Release"
 - The November Schedule for Dizzy's Club Starts with Lou Donaldson's 95th Birthday Celebration, on Tuesday, November 2 October 29, 2021 In "Jazz"
 - CD Releases: A Handful of New and Noteworthy Albums August 7, 2023 In "Album Release"

Share this:

- CHAMPION FULTON
- DYLAN CHAMAT
- EKEP NKWELLE
- FLYING HIGH: BIG BAND CANARIES WHO SOARED
- LEZLIE HARRISON
- NICHOLAS PAYTON
- THE TRIAD THEATER
- WILLIE JONES III

Deborah Stone
ENCORE Performance
Take Me Back; Joan, Joni, Dylan and Others
Feb 3 and Feb 18 at 4pm
Don't Tell Mama
343 West 46th St
\$20/\$15 MAC
Reservations: donttellmamanyc.com

PREVIOUS ARTICLE

RELATED ARTICLES

Pangea, Pompie and Pow! Jazz & Blues Sizzling- Review by David Rabinovitz

CD Releases: A Handful of New and Noteworthy Albums

Jack Kleinsinger's Highlights In Jazz Presents a Salute to Russell Malone on Thursday, June 21st

NEWSLETTER

SUBSCRIBE

First Name

Last Name

Email address:

SIGN UP

for dusty springfield...
the windmills of my mind
THE GREENROOM42
FEBRUARY 17TH 9:30PM
LIANNE MARIE DOBBS AND RON ABEL

THE CROWN PRINCE OF NEW YORK CABARET
STEVE ROSS
MOONLIGHT & LOVE SONGS
with special guest! NINA WACHENFELD
BIRDLAND
New York City
Monday, February 19 at 7:00 PM
\$20 and \$15 MAC
Reservations: 212.581.9088

AMY BETH WILLIAMS SINGS
LEIBER & STOLLER
Don't Tell Mama
Monday Feb 19 at 7 pm
Sunday March 24 at 4 pm

THE RED EYE GUYS PRESENT
Varla Jean Nerman
STANDBY YOUR DRAG
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24TH
SHOWTIMES 7PM & 8:30PM
New York City
Monday, February 19 at 7:00 PM
\$20 and \$15 MAC
Reservations: 212.581.9088

NYC CABARET DEBUT
Camille Diamond
OVER THE MOON
...on Pluto Transit
STEVEN RAY WATKINS
musical director
LENNIE WATTS
director
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25
SHOWTIMES 7PM & 8:30PM
Reservations: 212.581.9088

Ann Talman: Elizabeth Taylor and the Shadow of Her Smile
NYC Area's Best for Broadway Shows
A Heavenly Birthday Celebration
Sunday February 25, 2024 at 2 pm
Live Keyboard Director
Ann Talman, Music Director
THE LAURIE BEECHMAN THEATRE
407 W. 45th St., NYC
\$25 cover /\$20 for MAC Members
\$25 food/beverage minimum

Natalie DOUGLAS
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW

asa CABARET SCENES
THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN CABARET ASSOCIATION
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024
Lee Roy Reams Uncensored!
LaReisha DiEvelyn Dionne
2023 New York Cabaret Convention
Michael Kirk Lane
2023 CCP Gala

MAC
Manhattan Association of Cabarets & Clubs
www.macnyc.com

PIANO BAR LIVE!
connect with live music