

ERIN KREBS always wins with "LOVE"

The enchanting lighting, scintillating aromas, and delicious wines of Cena are often graced with a final ingredient for romance. The enticing sound of Erin Krebs and her warm, inviting vocal style fills the room with song and instantly gets your toe tapping and your heart beating. Her new album "Love Always Wins" is a fantastic work, with eleven original songs by Erin (also collaborations with guitarist Jeff Johnston). The music was recorded at Studio H., with Tony Anders at the desk, and features an impressive roster of the best jazz musicians in the Fox Cities.

Q. Congratulations on the album! It sounds fantastic, and I'm certain it will be well received. You have quite an array of styles present in these songs. Could you tell me about your writing process for the album?



A. Years ago I told myself I did not want to make an album unless I had some originals to put on it. Most of the songs began with a melody I came up with, then I sat down at the piano and worked out the chord changes and eventually lyrics. A couple of the songs were different – Jeff came up with a chord progression, and I improvised some melodies over it. In general, I just let out what comes to me, and I hope the soul comes across.

Q. You worked with quite a few musicians, and several drummers – how did the final performances that we hear on the album come about?

A. I've worked with so many musicians over the years and continue to do so. I wanted to include some of them in my first album. The Jazz Orgy guys were all very instrumental in my development, especially in the beginning. Jeff also introduced me to even more musicians through his blues band. It was very important to me that we record live performances in the studio. Having such top-notch musicians made the process go very smoothly! We added the flute, sax, and guitar solos

in after the band/vocals were tracked. For the duo song recording, Jeff and I were in the same room and we did one take. Tony's awesome insight, valuable input from Mike Malone, and what Jeff and I envisioned it to sound like worked together to create something I'm pretty much satisfied with at this time!

Q. You chose to not include any standards on the album. If you had, what would have been your top 3 songs to record?

A. I didn't decide to do only originals until a couple months before we started recording. I was going to do a jazz album, but the more I thought about it I realized that it's my debut, and it would introduce me to new listeners. So I thought I would add the blues and R&B originals to the album instead of standards to create that variety. If I had done 3 standards, I would've chosen one by Duke Ellington (probably a ballad like Sophisticated Lady or Solitude), one by Cole Porter (maybe Night and Day but in a Latin style), and an uptempo tune like Oh Lady Be Good to have some fun with scat! Trust me, albums of standards are in my future.

Jonathan Leahy is a percussionist, guitarist, composer and recording engineer. He can often be found at Heid Music, proudly wearing a name tag.