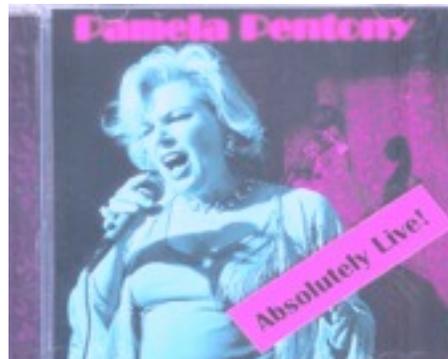


Jazz vocalist Pentony releases live album

Sound Advice Peter Aaron



ARTIST: Pamela Pentony

ALBUM: "Pamela Pentony" (Independent)

While Saugerties' Pamela Pentony has also dabbled in the "straight" musical world, in Broadway and Off-Broadway productions and on radio commercials - she seems to have gone in through the back door, lending her authentic-sounding, down-on-the-floor chops to an arena not known for singers who enunciate from below the neck. But with Pentony it's all in the hips, baby, as anyone who's ever seen her perform during the weekly jam session she curates at The Chowhound Cafe in Saugerties will tell you. Every Sunday night, this unsung diamond of the Hudson Valley music scene holds court over a constantly shifting rotisserie of the area's veteran and up-and-coming jazz players, smoking her way through tender ballads or scatting away like a well-oiled machine gun. She's the real deal, alright.

THIS RELEASE, Pentony's first, is drawn from performances recorded during the last few years and finds her in a range of settings: as a member of a vocal trio, in a duo with John Esposito and backed by various small groups. Aside from Harry Nilsson's "Thursday," the standards-heavy song list itself isn't likely to shock jazz lovers, but, as Artie Shaw once said, it's not the *song* that's important - it's what you do with it. And Pentony does plenty with the songs she sings. Look no farther than her rendition of the sultry swinger "Peel Me a Grape," which mines the uncharted common ground laid out by Anita O'Day's and Blossom Dearie's famous versions. Or, better still, the rapid-fire vocalese of Dizzy Gillespie's "He Beeped When He Shoulda Bopped," a piece that could be considered Pentony's signature tune. Though on these tracks Pentony's voice misses much of the husky sexiness from the sets we've caught, fans of classic jazz vocals will still be pleased.

WHAT: Live Jazz Jam

WHEN: Sundays at 7 p.m.

WHERE: The Chowhound, 112 Partition St., Saugerties

HOW MUCH: Free

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