Subject: New vocalist: Pamela Luss
Posted by lon on Wed, 15 Mar 2006 06:16:59 GMT
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Over the weekend I heard this vocalist with an albumreleased just this last February. The song sung was"Waters of March" which is a personal favorite. Thearrangement is the best I've heard in a long time for a tuneusually done very low key.There's some listening samples at the link belowbut they are pretty short.Along with Dianne Hubka and few others there seems tobe several new female vocalists with substantial talentand style.
Pamela Luss

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 16 Mar 2006 18:47:14 GMT
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I really like her, thanks for pointing her out!

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss
Posted by lon on Thu, 16 Mar 2006 18:56:50 GMT
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I don't know anything about her besides hearing The Waters Of Marchon the radio. The Bob Parlocha show is good for new talent andhistorical stuff. But I can't say that I'd call her a jazz singer.Very nice voice and arrangements though.

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss
Posted by Manualblock on Thu, 16 Mar 2006 22:28:11 GMT
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Lon; this is a difficult thing to review because of the nature of the music. When ever they want these newer artists;mostly female, to break into the adult-pop market they give them an album of standards to do. The problem with that as I see it is this. Those songs have been sung by some of the best female singers ever. Trying to compare an average voice with Sarah Vaughn or Ella Fitzgerald; Rosemary Clooney or Anita O'Day; the women who made songs like this famous is really impossible. Here's why I personally have an issue with this whole process. The good songstresses have natural voices that they just sing without affect or strain. Without attempting to modify their vocal range or use athletic means to push the vocals. This girl closes her throat in

order to reach notes she is not equiped to find in a smooth and natural manner. So it comes across as forced and tight. Thats what a lot of the younger chantueses seem to try to do. They control their voices in such a way as to restrict the flow of air and reach different keys and notes; something an Ella or Sarah never had to do. Consequently the music is limited and lacking in real emotion.This is just my opinion; YMMV.Here's a thought I always remmember when thinking of singing; at the end Billie Holiday had no voice left; yet she could still whisper a song better than most pro's could sing it. Thats what we don't find in the new crop of singers; the intuition and skill and experience to push a song with real feeling.

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss
Posted by lon on Fri, 17 Mar 2006 05:17:37 GMT
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I'd have to say in response that when the newer vocalists tryto ape the classic performers in scat singing etc, it usuallycome out pretty lame. And I think it is due to inexperience as you do. But I alsothink that the market for vocalists is greatly different thatin the hey day of the big bands. Many of the tunes on this album I avoid like the plaguesuch as "My Funny Valentine." But when a really good arrangement comes along like thenew(er) one of a chestnut--- but a sort of secret chestnut---like Cole Porter's "Miss Otis Regrets" done up in a jazzwaltz tempo by someone whom I would call effortless thenit gives new life to the music. I'll look up the "Miss OtisRegrets" vocalist if you want-- sounds like Marlena Shaw but isn'ther. As to repertoire, I think that jazz vocalists are guardiansof the style in the same way that barbershop quartets areguardians of the style. The HiLos under Gene Purling made it bigby using a variation on barbershop by putting the tenor onthe melody line and using orchestrations rather than accappella.The Hilos are not barbershop even in that Forever Plaid periodof the early 60's. I love voice and spoken word of all kinds. Pamela Luss just seems to be better than some of the other lounge singers which I hear over the air. I don'tknow how they do it. I'm not in radio anymore even as volunteer communityradio. But I've always wanted to play "That's Show Biz"by The Reverend Horton Heat (Martini Time album) for a radioaudience. Find it if you can, broadcast it if you are able.If I were doing a prog today, I'd probably use that as a closer. Last time we did regular sign-off for a number of monthswe used "My Way." Not the Sinatra "My Way", the Sid Vicious"My Way." I can still hear my partner reading the stationsign off with Sid in the background and then going into theNational Anthem.

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 17 Mar 2006 11:51:31 GMT
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I agree wholeheartedly regarding the experience and retro-approach. Say let me ask; why you haven't tried a podcast? It looks to me as if it would be right down your alley. Around here there is a pretty good markett for exactly the type of genre' you describe so I know the markett is there.I am a big spoken word fan also; I think we spoke about Ken Nordine previously and I listen to

William Burroughs with Material backing him. So do you have any recomendations along those lines?I think the new crop of females just need to find their own voice and choice of material that defines their abilities; they have decent chops, but they try too hard.

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss
Posted by lon on Fri, 17 Mar 2006 20:13:26 GMT
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More female vocalists: What I've noticed is that in the attempt tobecome modern or "with it," a number of the new jazz vocalists attempt to do lyrics put to mind-numbingly boring works by the likes ofKeith Jarret. This is _not_ the answer to finding your voice.The lyrics to these ersatz jazz tunes are more like scripts thananything that one would hum along to.Glad you appreciate Ken Nordine. I have most of the originalvinyl and the stuff from Ken is still available. He even sentme an email once.Many spoken word things are available on file share. The ones tolook for are by the likes of Richard Buckley (60's comedian whowas a contemporary of Lenny Bruce) Brother Theodore Gottlieb who used to be a regular on the Tonight Show and has done such off camera rolls as Gollum in the Ralph Bakshi Lord Of The Rings.Many poets read their work like Gil Scott Heron and Ishmael Reed,but I never got into the coffee house scene, Starbucks or anywhere else. Part of my role as cab driver was to educate the public on these subjects. As I'm thinking about this now one of my favorite spoken word pieces is "A Foreign Affair" writtenby Tom Waits and performed by Manhattan Transfer.Historically, radio drama was one of the best sources ofspoken word as anyone who has Well's War Of The Worldscan attest. But the poet of radio was Norman Corwin.Corwin's work is available in cd reproductions and is heardhere in Wisconsin on a special weekly program devoted to Old Time Radio.

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 17 Mar 2006 22:45:48 GMT
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Corwin; I'll have to look for that. Gil Scott Heron is an alltime fav. I listen to him on a daily basis and I play him in my car. All the kids who hang out with my son love the tapes now. Especially "Johannesburg", which just goes to show if you play it they will like it.I have heard some rap that I thought was captivating. I just never get the chance to locate those recordings and I don't have the patience to wade through all the muck to find them. If you know of any rap artists that are of substance let me know. I should be more educated along the lines of NWA or Africa Bombatta; stuff like that the good rap that tells stories of the streets in a poetical fashion.

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss

Posted by lon on Sat, 18 Mar 2006 02:26:44 GMT
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When Public Enemy released their first album, they established somethingcalled The Thank You's at the end of the record. The thank yous would bea litany of celebrities artists and historical figures in the blackheritage such as Martin Luther King, Nzake Shange, Toni Morrison, Paul Robeson, WEB Duboisetc. We were pleased that the first list included The Last Poets. The Last Poetswas a collective that produced a few records in the 70's and werecontemporeaneous with Gil Scott Heron.Not long ago I was surprised to learn that the Last Poets "When The Revolution Comes" and "This Is Madness" were available on cd.I requested that my local library make this part of acquisitionswhich they did. Now new artists can hear the source material for much of what rap has become.I would start with the Last Poets. Link is below. Also if you keep an eye on www.half.com, some titles mayshow up in there.Lesson 2 will be The Care And Feeding Of The Signifying Monkey.
Last Poets

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 20 Mar 2006 02:08:20 GMT
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Lon; Great post. I have ordered the Last Poets and as soon as I get it I'll let you know; sounds great. What is the theory of the Signifying Monkey? I know the song but not the thoery.Good to see you are appearing regularly with music; brick by brick we get this music thing going.Where's Electratig?

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss/ Kitty Margolis
Posted by lon on Mon, 20 Mar 2006 03:53:07 GMT
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Dunno about electro-what-you-said.What I worry about in this format is that all this infowill get buried. I believe we should lobby Wayne to make thisforum first in first out or whatever it means to displaynewest posts at the top of the list or the thread title with the most recent entries.I wanted to add Kitty Margolis to my list of female vocalists. A very similar delivery reminiscent Nancy Wilson.Kitty can keep time and she doesn't run out of breath thatI can hear.The tune I'm concentrating on is "Sleeping Bee". This to meis really infectious and I never knew much about it before.As i recall from the over-the-air notes by Parlocha, lyricswere written by Truman Capote. A must find for you and a special delivery to a youngster I know.There are very few tunes--especially jazz I betcha that a kid canwrap his or her head around. Waters of March was one I thought ofsince it has no narrative per se, narrative being the moon andJune elements of most pop music. Another one is "Voom" byBlossom Dearie. "Voom" is a French tune. I don't think it evenmatters what language you hear it in. I heard it in Frenchfirst as the outro of film called _Toto

the Hero_ (I think.)

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss / The Monkey
Posted by lon on Mon, 20 Mar 2006 05:08:22 GMT
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These subject lines are starting to look kind of goofy butI'm going to reply here on the care and feeding of the Signifying Monkey which was just a phrase that popped intomy head in the earlier post but has some relevance. You see, the Signifying Monkey started out as a 'toast'.Toasting was the earliest predecessor of rap according tothings I've read from places like Rounder Records (but I haveno original research.) Round likely still has this intheir catalog. Rounder Records is in Cambridge Mass. You see, back in those days --early 80's -- when the records were coming our way, Rounder Records compiled aalbum full of toasts under the title "Ups On The Farm" I think.The toasts were gathered from prison inmates in much the same way that whatshisface John Simon (?) did in Apallachia torecord the original musics of the hill peoples. Well anyway, the Signifying Monkey was one of the originaltoasts-- folklore. That's why there's The Monkey, The Elephant,The Buzzard, etc. Unfortunately these oral traditions based on The Dozenscontain many expletives. The Monkey has been fed over the years by entertainers as diverse as Oscar Brown Jr, Rudy RayMoore, Johnny Otis and Nat "King' Cole. Right here I'll make another pitch for the value of pointto point file sharing because without it I'd have no accessto the couple of Signifying Monkey routines that Rudy Ray(The Human Dynamo) Moore does-- one as a duet with Big Daddy Kane! --> Important note: Big Daddy will be covered under it's own well-deserved heading. Not Big Daddy Kane, Big Daddy (plain).These materials would be lost or extremely isolated ifsome individuals had not posted them from their recordcollections. The Monkey even has a book written about it by a big timeblack literature historian which I can prob'ly find yetbecause it is only a couple years old. I suppose the first Monkey you hear is always the favorite. First one I heard was from a quintet called"Snatch and the Poontangs" which was later identified forme as Johnny Otis working under a pseudonym. The most accessible version of the Monkey toasts waswritten by Oscar Brown Jr. who recently passed away: "Said the Signifying Monkey to the lion one day, There's a big bad elephant coming down your way. He talked about your mother and your sister too, And he didn't show too much respect for you.
Lastly, the the Signifying Monkey and Nat King Cole:the song "Straighten Up And Fly Right" is anothertake on this 'monkey business.' This is all oral history: just things I remember. I am no book author myself but I'd be glad if these musingsdidn't go down the black hole of web authorship along with otherstuff I have written. Problem with net authorship is that thesearch tools are so poor. But a look at the wiki for Signifying Monkey if there is such a thing would be worthwhile.Perhaps the wiki has these things already. More when manualblock asks me something....

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss / The Monkey
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 20 Mar 2006 14:21:18 GMT
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There is a whole genre' of female recordings that deal with sex. Believe me the lyrics on those records would shock the supposedly jaded public today. And they were recorded in the twenties and thirties.What do people think a"One-Eyed cat; peepin in a seafood store" might mean?Thats very tame compared to whats on record.Redd Foxx recorded a lot of the jokes along with Moms Mabley but many of the real hard-core artists I don't know the names.Signifying Monkey had to do with release from prison right?Bessie Smith did some raunch records also.BTW; The Last Poets; thanks Thats the stuff I like. I listened to a couple poems and I've ordered the CD.

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss/ Kitty Margolis
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 20 Mar 2006 14:26:55 GMT
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I posted once about Nancy Wilson and her new album. Got no replies even though it is a spectacular gemm of a record. I like Kitty but I don't have a lot of her stuff. The Decware Forum has a lot more guys who actually like music and post about it. Too bad but if you want to learn about new music and; well music in general it doesn't look like it's going to happen here. But we can keep trying for what it's worth.I have my system in order to hear music; I don't know why others have theirs.

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss/ Kitty Margolis
Posted by lon on Mon, 20 Mar 2006 19:07:33 GMT
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The vocalists on the From The Landing show from NPRare also excellent though I don't own much of the work.Rebecca Kilgore is their featured vocalist who always seemsfresh and able to keep time-- you know, not behind the beat or in front of it. Streams of the show are available from the Riverwalk site. I tend to be a minimalist as far as hardware is concerned.Over on the DIY forum one of the regulars was saying thathis kids wanted to build a BIB (Bigger Is Better design from TerryCain). The kids are 8 and 5. The one won a cheap cd player andthey want to fire it up with a Sonic Impact amp and run itto some BIBs. They want to paint flames on the BIB's.

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss/ Kitty Margolis
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 20 Mar 2006 20:25:57 GMT
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Meanwhile my boy and his freinds could care less as long as they can hear it on the Ipod.BIB; why not?How minimal are you?

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss/ Kitty Margolis
Posted by lon on Mon, 20 Mar 2006 21:19:46 GMT
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I have the FE127e from Fostex in an MLTL design built from 69 centshelving from a depot place called Menards. Amplification is from a Yamaha RP U100 that I got on closeout for $89. I've moved the FE127es to various builds over th years. I'm hoping the newsims that they're working on for BIB will allow for my nextbuild cycle with the same driver. For that I got a few72x12x3/4 edge-glued pre cut shelves for $8 each.The pair of 3" Tangband W871 I never found a suitable enclosurefor-- nothing sounds right. But there is a design out therefor bipole if I wanted to recut those boxes and add the rearfacing drivers and a tweet that shoots out the top.

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss/ Kitty Margolis
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 20 Mar 2006 22:42:05 GMT
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Is the Tangband the driver they modified in the AudioeXpress article?

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss/ Kitty Margolis
Posted by lon on Mon, 20 Mar 2006 23:02:53 GMT
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From what I recall without looking it up, yes. But I'm notabout to go putting dimples into _any_ aluminum cones.Apparently J. Krutke got good results out of the driverwith use of a BSC which he describes at zaphaudio.com I builthis highboy enclosures for use with the computer here: desktopbox at 16 in high for ear level. But I never cared for the sound esp. sealed. I ran them bare with no circuit correctionbecause I am electronically challenged.

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss/ Kitty Margolis
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 21 Mar 2006 01:33:46 GMT
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BSC never seemed to help much in my experience anyway.Whats your front-end?

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss/ Kitty Margolis
Posted by lon on Tue, 21 Mar 2006 04:04:48 GMT
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How much front end can you have with a 30 w. receiver?The sources are computer, vhs, dvd, FM. No turntable.

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss/ Kitty Margolis
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 21 Mar 2006 13:15:34 GMT
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No CD player? Or you use the computor for that?

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss/ Kitty Margolis
Posted by lon on Tue, 21 Mar 2006 19:07:25 GMT
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CD player when needed is done with Sony dvd player. The thing reads everything-- even dvds that are pronounced dead bytest programs.I buy very little product. Most recent was a newer Ken Nordineitem called Transparent Mask -- he's still making new work. There was a re-release of the original Double Six of Paris a couple years ago and I bought thatthrough an accappella catalogue I get. And there was a compilationrelease called The Best Of Big Daddy which I got to fill in whatmissing Items I could from the first BD release. Half.com has been goodat finding remaindered cds that I've looked up from referenceson the jazz show. There was an Alan Farnham that I got that way.Oh yeah, I bought a Brave Combo when seeing them live to support the band and replace an item I had of theirs on a purchased cassette.My favorite way of music collecting is air checks-- these daysusing line in on the computer and then cleaning up the beginnings and endings with a wave editor.

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss/ Kitty Margolis
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 22 Mar 2006 01:43:56 GMT
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O'Kay; I'll bite; whats an aircheck?

Subject: Re: New vocalist: Pamela Luss/ Kitty Margolis
Posted by lon on Wed, 22 Mar 2006 02:47:20 GMT
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Like it sounds-- recording things off the radio.Can we start a new thread?I can't see myself anymore.Would suggest one of the progs that can show a couplehundred entries with no problem and automatically go the top of the queue.Mr. Nemhuish did that at the Full Range Driver forumas did DIY audio.