

March 10th Concert Review
 Lisa Kelly - JB Scott Jazz Quintet



“You hit a home run tonight, Mike” and “This is the best concert I’ve been to for a long, long time” were typical of responses the Charlotte County Jazz Society had hoped for in bringing singer Lisa Kelly and trumpeter JB Scott to our stage for the first time on Monday, March 10. Lisa and JB, now a couple, began their long and successful musical partnership with a performance in 1997 at the legendary Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland. You want a trio, quartet, quintet, sextet or 18-piece big band? Call Lisa and JB. Want to buy a great addition to your jazz collection? Purchase the two-CD set, *Renditions: The Summer Sessions*, a December 2013 release with Kelly, Scott, Jeff Phillips and others. Thankfully, I did.

Backed superbly by CCJS newcomer drummer Ian Goodman, plus pianist Jeff Phillips and bassist Charlie Silva, both heard here frequently, Lisa and JB gave us a delightful and varied repertoire throughout the evening: “Oh, What A Little Moonlight Can Do,” “I Love Being Here With You” and “What A Wonderful World” offered far different interpretations by Kelly than ones heard earlier from Billie Holiday, Diana Krall and Louis Armstrong. Lisa has a sophisticated stage presence, creative scatting, a clarity of enunciation and quality of tone that captured her audience all night. Scott brought us some Dixieland: “Three Little Words,” “Rosetta,” (“my Rosetta, your Rosetta, our Rosetta” - nice lyrics, JB); the Sigmund Romberg classic not usually found at jazz concerts, “Softly As In A Morning Sunrise”; an original, “J Bizzle”; even some JB scat with “Sweethearts On Parade.” With his playing, one hears traces of Arturo Sandoval, Clark Terry, Freddie Hubbard, even Ruby Braff, but always with JB’s own style.

My favorites: anything from this rhythm section,

with contributions from Silva on “Rosetta,” from Goodman trading fours with Lisa on “Squeeze Me,” from Phillips on everything he offered: straight Dixie chords in “Three Little Words” to his extended solo on “I Only Have Eyes For You.” He is an amazing pianist, not only in his own playing ability, but in his expertise as an accompanist. All three were given their time to shine and all performed at the highest levels. Songs don’t have to be presented only as covers for someone else; they can offer the delight of hearing a fresh spin on “It Might As Well Be Spring,” perky, with scat and a Latin feel, but always swinging. Worth spending the evening, right there.

In 2011 Kelly and Scott were two of 320 international jazz artists profiled in the book *The New Face of Jazz*. Lisa mentioned their work as clinicians and mentoring teachers. JB,

for a time trumpeter and musical director of the Dukes of Dixieland, now coordinates the jazz studies program at the University of North Florida. Lisa teaches vocal jazz at First Coast Community School in Jacksonville. Ian Goodman instructs in jazz studies at the University of South Florida School of Music. Jeff Phillips is connected to Harrison School for the Arts in Lakeland. Great opportunities exist for students who come in contact with these professionals. But this band is engaging and appealing to any listeners. Props to the Lisa Kelly-JB Scott Jazz Quintet for helping to teach us what swing should really sound like. Props to the theater sound engineer who once more drew accolades from visiting artists. And props to our audience for responding so appreciatively to this wonderful evening of jazz.



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