Julie Burrell – Julie Burrell (1993)

01 - Queen's Chess 02 - The Thrill Is Gone 03 - Houston 04 - Daddy play *05 - You Don't Know What Love Is 06 - Just For You 07 - I Just Want To Make Love To You 08 - You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To 09 - Angel Eyes*
Personnel: Julie Burrell – vocals Spencer Starnes – double bass Danny Levin – cello, violin Robert Atwood, Bart Madeley – guitars Sandy Allen, Doug Hall – piano Gary Slechta – horn John Mills – flute, sax A. D. Manion - drums

Julie Burrell's vocals are warm, intimate and sultry whether she's fronting an orchestra or paired simply with a piano. Most listeners won't care that she attended classical workshops at Juilliard or even that she is equally as talented at writing standards as she is at performing them, for they have heard the sum of her experience. As any of her followers can tell you, the real resume is in the music.

Her molten mezzo all at once speaks of cocktails, candle light and a cigarette--all, of course, around midnight. Her self-titled debut CD (the cover is shown here) received national air play and critical praise. As one reviewer summed it up, "If Julie Burrell sang your monthly song bill, you just might be willing to pay it twice." --- womeninjazz.org

Local singer Julie Burrell (1964-2006), who won the 1994 Austin Music Award for Best Jazz Artist, passed away last Tuesday. The cause of death was undetermined, but friend Steve Craddock says Burrell, 42, was on an extended Central Texas visit from Southern California to try and recover from two recent bouts of pneumonia. Born in Houston, Burrell attended junior

and senior high school in Manor and left home briefly at 17, moving to New York to audit classes at the Julliard School. Burrell studied classical piano, wrote the music for Episcopal hymn "Let Him Reign" at age 12, and later toured with the Stray Cats, Gregg Allman, and Johnny Winter. She ultimately found her true calling as a torch singer. "My brain grew," she told Austin Blues Monthly in 1995. "I got bored with 12-bar, 1-4-5 progressions and power chords." After winning another Austin Music Award in 1997, Burrell relocated to Long Beach, where she released the CD Juliejazz in 1998 and later worked with Quincy Jones. "Not only was Julie a beautiful woman with an amazing voice," says Craddock, "but she also possessed one of the keenest intellects and sharpest wits I ever encountered." --- austinchronicle.com

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