

Debby Boone – Swing This (2013)

Written by bluelover

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01 – Sway 02 – That Old Black Magic 03 – More Than You Know 04 – I’m Gonna Live Till I Die 05 – These Boots Are Made for Walkin’ 06 – Cry Me a River 07 – Sing Sing Sing 08 – I’m Waiting Just for You 09 – Everybody Loves Somebody 10 – Get Me to the Church on Time 11 – Mack the Knife 12 – Round Midnight 13 – You & the Night & the Music 14 – Be Careful It’s My Heart

She was a just toddler when her father, Pat Boone, was a Las Vegas headliner who hobnobbed with the Rat Pack. But the singer Debby Boone had her eyes and ears wide open, and she remembers things like the look of Sammy Davis Jr.’s house and Dean Martin’s jokes about her father’s teetotaling. And on Tuesday evening at Café Carlyle Ms. Boone, glamorized to the max, was the very picture of a tastefully attired Las Vegas babe as she devoted an entire program to songs of the Rat Pack era in a show titled “Swing This.” The swing was provided by an excellent nine-member band under the direction of John Oddo, the longtime musical director of Ms. Boone’s mother-in-law, Rosemary Clooney.

When it comes to swinging, some people have it, and others don’t. And Ms. Boone doesn’t have it: not an iota, beyond a barely developed sense of syncopation. Singing on pitch in a small, demure voice, she displayed all the personality of a well-hearsed beauty contestant going through the motions.

Ms. Boone, 56, brought so little stamina and humor to “Mack the Knife” that you wondered if she even knew she was singing a facetious anthem exalting a homicidal bad boy. A rote version of “Cry Me a River,” unruffled by the smallest tinge of bitterness and anger, simply lay there, inert. “These Boots Are Made for Walking” ambled along, without the strutting bravado necessary to bring it alive.

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Only at the very end when the guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli accompanied Ms. Boone in a tender version of Irving Berlin's "Be Careful, It's My Heart," did she connect with her material. It suggested that Ms. Boone's emotional default position is a generic niceness, a quality that's the last thing you want if you're dealing with the Rat Pack. ---Stephen Holden, nytimes.com

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