

## JaLaLa - That Old Mercer Magic! (2009)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Spring, Spring, Spring* 2 *You Must Have Been A Beautiful Baby* 3 *Jeepers Creepers*  
4 *My Shining Hour* 5 *Accentuate The Positive* 6 *Dream* 7 *Im Old Fashioned* 8  
*Riding On The Moon* 9 *Moon River/Moon Country* 10 *Have You Got Any Castles Baby?*  
11 *Too Marvelous For Words* 12 *The Dance Of Life* Acoustic Bass – David Finck  
Clarinet – Margot Leverett Djembe – Rich Zukor Drums – Matt Wilson Guitar – David Finck,  
Frank Vignola Handclaps – Eric Elterman, JaLaLa Mandolin – Aaron Weinstein Pedal Steel  
Guitar – Cindy Cashdollar Piano – Yaron Gershovsky Trumpet – Lew Soloff Violin – Aaron  
Weinstein, Sara Caswell Vocals – Janis Siegel, Lauren Kinhan, Laurel Massé Vocals – JaLaLa

Janis Siegel, Laurel Masse and Lauren Kinhan share more than their intense passion for passionate sounds that resonate with the listeners of their respective groups, The Manhattan Transfer and The New York Voices. The three pop vocalists share admiration for the late Johnny Mercer, one of the true American songwriters and poets. Thus, their collaborative effort, *That Old Mercer Magic*, which is being released on Dare Records, June 16, 2009, is an irresistible body of work that speaks to the empowerment of today's female singers while paying tribute to Mercer's genius. ---crossovermedia.net

Janis Siegel has done a fair amount of recording away from the Manhattan Transfer during her decades-long tenure with the vocal group, but this a rare opportunity to hear her with other vocalists outside of it. *JaLaLa*, featured on four selections, includes Laurel Massé and Lauren Kinhan on vocals, with each singer leading individual selections.; the core group of musicians includes pianist Yaron Gershovsky, bassist David Finck, guitarist Frank Vignola, and drummer Matt Wilson, with guests added or substituted on some pieces. The songs selected from Johnny

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Mercer's vast output include both still-popular standards and obscurities, with the supporting cast varying from one track to the next. All three vocalists join forces for a fun-filled romp through "Ac-Cent-U-Ate the Positive" and the neglected "Spring Spring Spring," both of which add pedal steel guitarist Cindy Cashdollar. Siegel handles both "Jeepers Creepers" and "Too Marvelous for Words" effortlessly. Kinhan shines in the breezy bossa nova setting of "My Shining Hour," while Massé delivers a warm "Moon River" which is joined in a medley with the less familiar "Moon Country," a sauntering chart that features JaLaLa. Only the lame setting of "You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby," saddled with the inane antics of DJ Sugarkone and a bland groove, proves disappointing. ---Ken Dryden, AllMusic Review

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