Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers - Everybody's Talkin' 'Bout Miss Thing! (2000)



1 The Busy Woman's Blues 6:12 2 Everybody's Talkin' 'Bout Miss Thing 3:11 3 Big Fine Daddy 4:06 4 Gee, Baby Ain't I Good to You? 5:06 5 Now or Never 3:46 6 I've Got a Feelin' 3:41 play 7 Roll the Boogie 3:59 8 Honey Pie 4:10 9 I Want a Little Boy 6:10 10 Blow Me a Fat Note 3:25 11 Voo-It 5:06 12 He Beeped When He Should Have Bopped 3:32 13 Hootie Blues 4:06 14 Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans? 5:15 15 Sent for You Yesterday (And Here You Come Today) 4:11 16 Winter Wonderland 2:20 play

Musicians: Lavay Smith (vocals); Charlie Siebert (guitar); Jules Broussard (alto & tenor saxophone); Bill Stewart (alto saxophone); Ron Stallings (tenor & baritone saxophone); Herman Riley (tenor saxophone); Allen Smith, Bill Ortiz (trumpet); Marty Wehner, Danny Armstrong (trombone); Chris Siebert (piano); Bing Nathan (string bass); Sly Randolph, Mark Lee (drums); Jesus Diaz (bongos); Michael Spiro (congas).

If you like swinging big-band blues, this is a no-lose proposition. The eight-member backup outfit consists of jazz veterans who have played with giants like Ella Fitzgerald, Lionel Hampton, and Duke Ellington; lead singer Smith, a kid by comparison, only sounds as if she lived through the big-band era. Half a dozen of the San Francisco group's sparkling originals fit right in with classics first popularized by the likes of Helen Humes, Dizzy Gillespie, Billie Holiday, and Count Basie. The spirited performances benefit from first-rate musicianship, a sense of humor, and the group's refusal to try to update the genre they call home. As they prove on every one of the 16 tracks, this music works just as well today as it did in the '20s, '30s, '40s, and '50s. ---Jeff Burger, allmusic.com

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When Johnny Otis gave his blessings to Lavay and the boys a few years ago it just confirmed what saavy listeners in the Bay area knew already. They smoke! This CD is a great sophomore effort (avoiding the dread slump afflicting so many bands in almost every genre). Great song selections, arrangements, lush vocals with just the right amount of bite by Lavay and a joyous swing vibe throughout. If you don't want to dance to this music, you must be dead. Also a serious tip of the hat for the superb analog like (meant in the best sense) sound quality, it's HDCD mastered by Paul Stubblebine (an SF audio engineer legend). Buy this CD, take your significant other out for a spin and enjoy a glorious Spring season. ---Nick Despotopoulos (San Jose, CA USA)

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