Stacey Kent – Breakfest On The Morning Tram (2007)

1. Ice Hotel
2. Landslide
3. Ces Petits Riens
4. I Wish I Could Go Travelling Again
5. So Many Stars
6. Samba Saravah
7. Breakfast on the Morning Tram
8. Never Let Me Go
9. So Romantic
10. Hard-Hearted Hannah
11. Saison des Pluies
12. What a Wonderful Word

Personnel:
Stacey Kent (vocals); John Parricelli (guitars); Jim Tomlinson (alto saxophone);
Graham Harvey (Fender Rhodes piano); Dave Chamberlain (double bass); Matt Skelton (drums).

Having previously demonstrated a knowing way with sets from the Great American Songbook and a special bent for Brazilian-flavored melodies, vocalist Stacey Kent takes on a different sort of mix here. And succeeds brilliantly, which shouldn't surprise anyone who has been listening to her, for this porcelain princess has gradually moved into the front rank of current young singers. Her voice—is it mercury or is it clear water running over stones in a brook?—falls ever so easily on the ear, managing the neat feat of being as light as a butterfly yet emotionally substantial.

The opening tune, "The Ice Hotel, Kazuo Ishiguro and Jim Tomlinson's newly-minted enigmatic

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gem, charms with her deliciously clear delivery. The title track is another newbie by Ishiguro-Tomlinson that has Kent painting a savvy word portrait of an Amsterdam morning. The more familiar "Never Let Me Go is typical of how skillfully she can wend her way through deeper moments while never losing her particular lightness.

Whether it's the playfully French "Ces petits riens or the samba mood of Bergman-Mendes' "So Many Stars, Kent's a Loreley to whom one surrenders unreservedly. ---Andrew Velez, allaboutjazz.com

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