



Melissa Lauren, *The Other Side*. M11111

Melissa Lauren is a real jazz singer, good in the way Blossom Dearie or Stacie Kent are good. Once you hear her sing, you want to keep listening. *The Other Side*, her follow-up album, is a collection of ten original tunes Laura composed on the ukulele, and a few standards including Cole Porter's 1948 hit "Always

True to You in My Fashion." Ella did "Always True....", Eartha did it, Peggy and Blossom did it too. So that's the sisterhood Lauren fits in with. Also, she's a pretty good songwriter—I like her "Somehow," a passionate ballad with fine guitar licks by Nathan Hiltz who co-composed "Wrapped Around My Finger," and "Fondness." "Your Fool" is an aching, Leonard Cohenish tune that's backed by a 'Somewhereovertherainbow' strum. "Secret world has a kind of horny energy. "Senses" has an almost funky country beat. "On the Other Side," exploits an Obladi-Obladah backbeat and engages a handclapping response. Not her best. Lauren is a class act on this album. In her next one she could let go more. Just let go. The musicians are good and there are plenty of them: Eric St-Laurent, Nathan Hiltz, Ernesto Cervini, Matt Newton, Ross MacIntyre, William Sperandei, Ryan Oliver, Drew Jurecka.



Nick Moran Trio, *No Time Like Now*. Manor Sound

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