

CABARETSCENES

Amanda King

What's a Poor Girl to Do?

Rrazz Room
San Francisco, CA



Local newcomer Amanda King is heading to the Big Apple for gigs at the Cabaret Convention and the Metropolitan Room with her new endeavor *Forgotten Women, Lost Songs*. Holding a fundraiser on her behalf, *What's a Poor Girl Gonna Do?* is appropriate to her circumstances. It's been a rough three years for this gal, enduring a divorce, homelessness and single-motherhood, but Amanda is strong of spirit and has come through with a strong new show, of which this evening was just a preview.

Opening with a swinging "Caravan" and a lovely "A Porter's Love Song to a Chambermaid" (Andy Razaf /James P. Johnson), King establishes her husky alto as a gem and with some fine polish, she could follow in the footsteps of Paula West. She has that early Carmen McRae/Dinah Washington/Ella Fitzgerald smoothness and a natural subtlety. King is a cabaret stylist who can nail two old gems from 1937: Mack Gordon and Harry Revel's ballad, "Through the Courtesy of Love," from the movie *Head Over Heels*, and Hoagy Carmichael's "Rockin' Chair," a big hit for Mildred Bailey. Percy Mayfield's "Lost Mind" is an excellent choice for King, a bluesy shuffle with sass and style. Well-researched on female vocalists from the 1930s including Bailey, Blanche Calloway and Bea Wayne, King does justice to the material and is comfortable with swing, blues or ballads. I look forward to watching her mature and develop into a successful song stylist.

Steve Murray

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