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Habaka

Heritage Blue

Available on CD Baby, iTunes, Amazon



Husky Tone Records

Music Review

By Denise Joyner

A *Heritage Due!* Aptly entitled "*Heritage Blue*", Habaka Kay Foster Jackson has released her new album on the Husky Tone Records label in December 2016. She is accompanied by the exceptional talents of Shakeblues and special guests trumpeter player James Boogaloo Bolden (former Bandleader for B.B. King), saxophonist player Eric Demmer (formerly with Gatemouth Brown) and James Lamar Boulet; Habaka celebrates a rich heritage of blues.

Since a youth, Habaka literally experienced music on the knees of her father figure, the late incomparable "King of Blues", B.B. King. Habaka comes from a rich heritage of entertainers. Her father, the late Melvin Jackson played tenor saxophone for the legendary B.B. King. Habaka's mother was an entertainer in her own right, herald as a singer and dancer. Habaka's appreciation of her personal heritage is quite evident in "*Heritage Blue*". Many of the songs on the album were sung by the late B.B. King. What a tribute!

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This Nashville, Tennessee born “Tigress and Panther of Cremona” Habaka Kay Foster Jackson embodies a rich and full contralto with the sound of Roberta Flack, the smoothness of Sade, the punch of Nina Simone and the explosive power and thrust of Mahalia Jackson. The “Heritage Blue” album has been graced with a custom created, sample unisex citrus fragrance oil, appropriately called “Heritage Blue”.

The album is replete with songs that introduce two eras of blues styles, the Delta Blues and Rhythm and Blues. Habaka rolls in with some “Great Delta Blues” with her strong vocals in tracks such as “Rollin and Tumbling” and Ain't Nobody's Business”. The arrangement for “Strange Fruit” is quite thematic. It enters the scene with harmonica overtones, followed by the drum brushes ushering in the sounds of rain, and finalizing the intro is the resounding bass cello in a minimalist crescendo. Habaka ends the song with a lyrical explosion; an inner cry that causes the listener to experience abrupt emotion.

Habaka pours her soul into “I Sing the Blues” and “I Put a Spell on You”. “I Put a Spell on You” culminates in an explosion of harmony which seems to explain why the spell was placed; “Because you're mine”! The upbeat arrangement of “Help the Poor” causes a bopping head, and “Ain't No Love In The Heart Of The City” causes a dropped “mug” to accompany the bopping head. The Rhythm and Blues style is neatly woven in, in songs such as “Love On The Brain” and “Ain't No Love In The Heart Of The City”. Artfully and skillfully, Habaka made these two songs her very own.

The amazing talent of her musicians made this union a perfect match. They captured the mood of each song and the high and low moods which blues songs typically express. These amazing musicians became more than an extension of Habaka, but a fusion capturing who she is and the expressions of her soul. “Heritage Blues” delivers what it promises, a personal heritage and inheritance shared and delivered to each of us. Thank you Habaka for sharing the joy and pleasure of your treasured inheritance with us.

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