

HERITAGE BLUE REVIEW

Root Wisdom from the Elders Circle!

Jacquie "LadyJ Griot" Maddix

Tuesdays on KFAI Radio 90.3 & 106.7 FM

September 25, 2017

HABAKA
Heritage Blue
Husky Tone Records
Copyright 2016

First of all, let me come clean. I'm not only a fan of this wonderful singer BUT I'm an old friend of hers that lost touch with her for more than 10 years. We just re-connected, thanks to the wonders of the internet, and she sent me her newest project, the Heritage Blue CD I'm reviewing today. Perhaps the gap in our association is a good thing in this case, because now I have had the opportunity to track the career of this vocalist and see her evolution from a performer of songs into a songstress with her own fully developed style and her own way of interpreting songs.

As a blues broadcaster on the air at KFAI 90.3FM in Minneapolis, Minnesota, I had already made my audience aware of Kay Foster Jackson aka Habaka by way of a demo she left with me some years ago. But I was not prepared for the smooth, sultry voice that oozed out of the CD player when I played this newest release on Husky Tone Records, and I'd have to say that moniker: "husky tone", is righteously earned. Habaka chose twelve tunes for this project that showcase her delivery and her voice at their best, especially the more soulful cuts, Like the Sunshine and Ain't No Love In The Heart of the City. The musicianship and the vocal feel

sent me back a few decades to the prime years of the 1970's old school soul singers. Ms. Foster-Jackson seems to have found the right mix between Anita Baker, Gladys Knight and Nina Simone which is most evident on I Put A Spell On You, Nina's tour de force tune, which Kay spices up with contemporary fixings. My favorites on this disc are the blues tunes, of course. She gets new school funky with The Thrill is Gone and appropriately honors the dusty road of the Delta with an authentic rendition of Rollin & Tumblin.

I'm proud to know that this husky-voiced crooner is out there in the world, taking the blues..... and its derivatives R & B, Soul and Gospel....yes, you can hear "church" all in her voice, too.....I'm glad she's out there representing American music as she travels the highways and byways of Italy and other points international. Her full, warm, mature voice is as comforting as it is cultured. Applause must also be rendered to the band members who accompany Habaka on this release as well. The CD is well produced, well played and well performed. What's next for this well-traveled, seasoned vocalist? I hope I don't have to wait another ten years to find out.

Root Wisdom from the Elders Circle!

Jacque "[LadyJ Griot](#)" Maddix

Tuesdays on KFAI Radio 90.3 & 106.7 FM

