

REVIEW EXCERPTS and links

What the critics have to say about "The Song That Sings You Here" -

4 stars **** Downbeat

"Does she ever swing! In the charged company of her small band, McNulty proves worthy of a frontline instrument on rhythm tunes and bright tempos. The delicate melodic improvising [she] floats on Horace Silver's "Lonely Woman" is focused and finely wrought. McNulty plays with rhythm authoritatively; there's not a hesitant note or second guessed choice to be heard. Her own title tune is a quietly intense lover's plea wrapped in liquid glisses and keening rhythm." *Kirk Silsbee, April 2013*

4 stars **** The Irish Times

"Australian-born New Yorker Chris McNulty is a classy singer in the classic style, emoting from the heart and giving the lyrics their full meaning, but more than capable of mixing it with the band and improvising with the best of them. A timeless slice of pure jazz " *Cormac Larkin, February 2013*

FULL REVIEW: [Chris McNultywww.irishtimes.com](http://www.irishtimes.com)The Song That Sings Your Here Challenge Records****

Jazz Times

"... a terrific ability to trace serpentine routes. On "Lonely Woman" and "Last Night When We Were Young" she tempers the prevailing melancholy with an undercurrent of hope-fueled anticipation, resulting in a fascinating sense of looking simultaneously backward and forward." *Christopher Loudon, March 2013*

Jazz Wise UK

"...the singers story telling gift has you hanging on every phrase. She also contributes a brace of songs - the first, the hauntingly beautiful "Letter to Marta"...the second "Long Road Home - The Song That Sings You Here", features jazz singing of the highest order. McNulty has never sounded more at ease with her mastery." *Peter Quinn, March 2013*

5 stars ***** Jazz Journal

Australian-born vocalist McNulty has a wide range and sings with strength and great clarity. Although her approach is strong and upfront she is a lyrical stylist

and she integrates well into the band to make this a seamless performance with the voice working as one of the instruments. Her expressive style makes the listener aware of the words and the thoughts behind them and convinces that she is expressing herself through them..." **Derek Ansell, May 2013**

5 stars *** XPRESS Magazine, Perth, Western Australia**

One of Australia's great jazz vocalists, Chris McNulty, recently won the Australian Bell Award for Best Jazz Vocal Album of 2012. Recorded in Manhattan, Chris has lived in New York for many years but there are frequent homecomings which allow us to enjoy her undeniable talent. The songs selected on this CD have come from various genres but it is her interpretation and musicality, along with some great jazz musicians such as, guitarist, Paul Bollenback, Ugonna Okegwo on bass, Marcus Gilmore on drums, tenor and soprano, Igor Butman, Andrei Kondakov on piano and two Aussies, vocalist, Anita Wardell and on piano and Rhodes, Graham Wood, that make it shine. The repertoire that Chris chose to record and her delivery, showed what musical grace and insight she has i.e. *How Little We Know*, Burt Bacharach's, *One Less Bell to Answer*, the rarely recorded, *How Are Things in Glocca Morra*, from the musical, *Brigadoon*, Fats Waller's, *Jitterbug Waltz* and her composition, *'Long Road Home – The Song That Sings You Here*. This is a memorable musical journey by an outstanding jazz artist, Chris McNulty. *Helen Mathews - XPRESS Magazine, July 2013*

5 stars *** Artlink.co.za**

From Louis to Dewey and beyond - "Ten tracks of superior jazz singing". **Don Albert 05/15/2013**

FULL REVIEW http://www.artlink.co.za/news_article.htm?contentID=32845

Something Else:

"A beautifully personal record that swings and sways with the best of them, *The Song That Sings You Here* is a treat for those looking for some kind of truth. McNulty's vocals are warm and involving, revealing spheres of love, loss and mystery through these 10 special songs."

FULL REVIEW [Chris McNulty – The Song That Sings You Here \(2013\)](#)

Mid West Record:

".... An absolute must for any jazz vocal fan, this is a winner throughout."

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FULL REVIEW <http://midwestrecord.com/MWR582.html>

Criticaljazz.com:

"An eclectic yet incredibly accessible journey finds McNulty's voice immersed in swing and blues and is as raw, real and naturally organic as a vocalist can get... transcending from traditional "singer" to sublime vocalist or storyteller. McNulty swings somewhere between independent star on the rise and simply a raw honesty that transcends songs. An incredibly moving yet somehow delightfully entertaining session that will long be remembered after the last note fades out. One of the most beautiful vocal records that I have heard in years"

FULL REVIEW: <http://www.criticaljazz.com/2012/12/chris-mcnulty-song-that-sings-you-here.html>

What the critics have to say about McNulty's prior releases and live performances:

Whispers the Heart - (Elefant Dreams – ED4549)

"Her liquid phrasing and luminous tone underscoring a voice of serene beauty and striking veracity...compelling emotional fervency...One of the foremost singer-composers on the scene today..."

****** 4 Stars Peter Quinn, *Jazz Wise UK, January 2007***

"If McNulty's vocalizing is fearless, then her writing is peerless....her explorations seem to transcend to a free zone between jazz and modern symphonic....There is so much to commend about the album: above all, the versatile, soothing, swimming voice of Australian-born McNulty; her writing and arranging skills. The musical diversity on display is equally impressive" standards sprinkled throughout; rarities by Jobim, Bernstein, and Thad Jones; a surprise guest appearance by Frank Wess, whose tenor timbre is remarkably similar to McNulty's. This, her 6th album, should not merely be listened to, but carefully digested."

Jazz Times - Harvey Siders, January 2007

LIVE PERFORMANCE

The Melbourne Jazz Festival – May 2007

"An absolute showstopper was a duet of guitar and vocal for the Burt Bacharach composition "Make It Easy on Yourself" where, at a slow tempo, McNulty wove a soulful descant on the melody over soft guitar chords to frame the song with a quiet poignant delicacy. It was a showcase of world-class talent and professionalism".

John McBeath, the Advertiser, Adelaide, Australia, September 2008

"...the McNulty gig remained one of the best-kept secrets of the Festival....for me this provided some real Festival highlights over the several nights I heard them... a really strong swinging New York band from note one! **McNulty was in great form out front, using tone and every possible nuance to enhance her expression, while always swinging.** Whether playing Bollenback arrangements of lesser-played standards or McNulty's originals, Bollenback rolled out one brilliant musical solo after another. It is interesting to note that this was the one group which I heard in the Festival (and I heard most of them) which actually delivered such a joyous and irresistible swing that one's foot had to move!"

M. Jackson, Jazz Australia, June 2007

"...she's a much more impressive performer than the more celebrated Diana Krall and Jane Monheit, and considerably more the real thing, where jazz is concerned, than Norah Jones. How she isn't better known is a mystery... even when she took frequent liberties with the lines of each song they had musical purpose, and she never lost her sense of engagement with the words. They produced a brilliant, languorous The Meaning Of The Blues, an easy, loping Easy To Love and Star Eyes, a beautifully phrased It Might As Well Be Spring and My Romance, and a gorgeous, slow It Never Entered My Mind that came close to equaling The Meaning Of The Blues as the best of the night....compelling examples of group interaction....an engrossing demonstration of the art of jazz singing."

Ray Comiskey, The Irish Times, January 2005

Whispers the Heart - (Elefant Dreams – ED4549)

"One of those immense talents deserving wider recognition....She seems so comfortable with her technique - which of course puts an audience right in her comfort zone." ***** **5 Stars - Dick Bogle, The Scanner, November 2006**

"..McNulty's intonation and articulation are commanding - and provide a preview for the level of musical excellence and creative artistry with which she leads throughout the album. McNulty scats and she is marvelous. Whether she is singing the lyrics or improvising, McNulty demonstrates a commanding sense of rhythm that is evident in the way she bends the rhythms, syncopating phrases in unexpected ways..." The album is a cornucopia of all those abstract elements that identify a great performance, and a consummately musical album. What are those elements? They are what enables the music, that is otherwise nothing more than notes on paper, and a few people that show up with musical instruments to play, and whose names later appear on an album jacket, to tap into a certain energy stream and resonate together in extraordinary ways. That's what happens here on Chris McNulty's Whispers the Heart." **Clive Griffin, Jazz Improv, October 2006**

"That the Australian McNulty is one of the best current singers, we have already made note of in the October, 2005 edition in regard to "Dance Delicioso" (**Top Pick of the month along with Charlie Haden's "Not in My Name"**). The new album reconfirms this judgment. Characteristic of McNulty is the ability to extract new vitality from tunes by now exhausted from overuse, but not in this case. Further confirmed would seem to be the talent of McNulty as a songwriter, already apparent in the preceding album, but here definitely progressed and further supported by

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interesting choices of arrangements. Fascinating is the closer of the album, the duet with Bollenback". **Conti- Musica Jazz Italy, July 2007**

"With these, Chris McNulty's fifth and sixth CDs, she extends her audience from the strong and dedicated fan base to the encompass many who have missed her considerable skill in the past. "...An inventive and thoroughly engaging jazz singer with an especially attractive touch with ballads... For anyone who has missed hearing her, either in live performance or on record, this CD will be a revelation... This is a singer of considerable character and vast experience who brings to every song she sings an originality often lacking in the work of better-known contemporaries... Definitely a CD to look out for and to savour.. this highly recommended CD clearly demonstrates that Chris is a major singing talent for today." **Bruce Crowther, journalist, writer - UK, July 2005 & Sep 2007**

Dance Delicioso - (Elefant Dreams – ED4547)

"Jazz singer Chris McNulty gets right to the work of jazz & vocal horn lines with her singular take of the cogent Cole Porter original, 'All Of You.' Chris stretches & soars in & out of the lyric, harmony, & melody, et al. Through it all, the tune emerges whole. This is a girl who can tear a song apart viably in front of your very ears And, what a joyful noise she makes as the musical pieces break off & hit our senses beautifully." **George W. Carroll/The Musicians' Ombudsman, July 2005**

"...True talent is rare, but it's clear that Ms. McNulty has it in spades... along with a joy for singing that communicates to the listener without her having to try (or so it sounds). You won't find an album quite as timeless again this year, I'll bet you... if you love great jazz vocals, you'll HAVE to get this one! This gets a MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED from my ears, as well as the "PICK" of this issue for "best female jazz vocals". Cool jazz, but with vigor!"

Dick Metcalf, ImprovJazzation Nation, June 2005

"....she is triply blessed with not only an exquisite instrument and a breezy sense of swing, she is an excellent songwriter as well...her expressive passionate voice shines throughout...it's a wide variety of styles but McNulty proves she has the voice, timing and musical moxie to pull it off."

Robert A. Lindquist, Singer Musician, October 2005

Chris McNulty is one of the current generation of jazz singers most deserving of a wider audience and greater recognition..."

Bill Donaldson, Jazz Improv, Fall 2005

"...God, I got a hot flash after I hard this lady sing...she whispers dynamically....McNulty possesses great taste, she's got it all...control, vocalese, vibrato, et al....nothing routine & unimaginative here...rather sexy, definitive, and alive! McNulty is...capable of injecting emotion, pathos, irony & meaning into her work ..a gift that few singers can lay claim to.

George W. Carroll/The Musician's Ombudsman, August 2006

Web sites:

www.chrismcnulty.com

Interviews:

JazzTimes.com - Chris McNulty: Voice of Beauty and Truth

Jazz Planet - "The Song That Sings Chris McNulty" - Miriam Zolin - <http://www.jazz-planet.com/2012/02/the-song-that-sings-chris-mcnulty/>

All About Jazz - "A Siren From Down Under" - Ludwig Van Trikt - <http://www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=41226#.UEkGd45lhS9>

Jazz Improv Magazine - [Full Interview](#)

Jazz Ed Magazine - "On the Road" - guest clinician article - Jan, 2007 - [Full Article](#)