

Christine Fawson
Happy Talk
 ★★★



A jazz musician is always a lifelong student, a truth that vocalist and trumpeter Christine Fawson readily embraces. Fresh from the halls of Berklee College of Music, Fawson builds her debut *Happy Talk* on a foundation of skillful arrangements by trombonist and Berklee mentor Phil Wilson. Wilson's charts swing with a sense of consideration that prominently feature Fawson's strengths as an energetic vocalist and a thoughtfully engaging soloist.

While Fawson is clearly concentrating on showcasing her vocal flairs rather than her trumpet chops, she does reveal a clear

sense of direction. She finds her sultry stride on Cole Porter's "Night And Day," complete with some slyly swinging scat work, and strikes a more relaxed pose with "Come Rain Or Come Shine" that reveals a glimpse of Fawson's burgeoning maturity.

—John Kreicbergs

Happy Talk: It's A Most Unusual Day; Don't Fence Me In/Blue Skies; Desafinado; Happy Talk; Someone To Watch Over Me; I Wonder Why? (You're Just In Love); A Kiss To Build A Dream On; Night And Day; Smile; Avalon; Come Rain Or Come Shine. (50:39)

Personnel: Christine Fawson, vocals, trumpet; Phil Wilson, arranger, musical director, trombone; Charles Lewis Jr., trumpet, flugelhorn; Leon Silva, alto and soprano saxophones; Walter Smith III, tenor saxophone; Jason Camello, trombone; Matt Maley, baritone saxophone; Gavin McGraw, vibes; David Doruzka, guitar; Tony Germain, piano; Yasushi Nakamura, bass; Deon Hairston, drums; Alisa Miles, vocals.

Ordering Info: www.christinefawson.com



100 Great Jazz Clubs Mike Stern Yo-Yo Ma

DOWNBEAT

Jazz, Blues & Beyond

Django Lives!
Reviving the
Gypsy's Legacy

Joe Lovano
BLINDFOLDED

Marty
Ehrlich

Miles,
Birdland
1951

Wynton's Empire

The Trumpeter Revels in his
Year at the Crossroads