



Vanessa Fernandez

Vanessa as a vocalist and songwriter straddles the world of Roots and Jazz. She cemented her style and persuasive tone to listeners on her highly successful debut album **'Fernandez and Wright, Unsung'**, released in 2009 with guitarist Steve Wright. Accompanied by some of Australia's finest jazz musicians these beautiful original tunes were brought to life.

Vanessa's love for music began in her early years, classical piano serving her skills in writing and singing. Dabbling in vocals all her life she eventually combined both which proved to be an organic process. Listening to Sarah Vaughan, Eric Clapton, Elvis Presley, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder has developed her as an artist. Her unique blues inflections and interpretations of melody and harmony add new character to loved classics of contemporary and traditional music.

MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

Vanessa's original writing is largely expressed throughout her debut album 'Fernandez and Wright Unsung', released in 2009 with guitarist Steve Wright. Accompanied by some of Australia's finest jazz musicians these beautiful songs were brought to life. The album was launched to a full house at Melbourne's premier jazz venue Bennett's Lane and received rave reviews both locally and internationally. Unsung hit #32 on the CMJ Jazz Music Charts in the US and #42 on the Jazz Week World Charts.

Unsung is beautifully crafted, executed and timeless in its listening. Not only are the songs written with an authenticity that is rare, but the performance given by the pair is an exquisite mix of the emotionally compelling and the understated. You can hear the single minded dedication to the songs over and above the outstanding production and musicality on this album. Vanessa skillfully weaves her distinct understanding of melody through her voice, which is remarkably subtle and intense, with a tone that is altogether delightful in its depth and originality. The two artists are perfectly matched in expression. Steve's minimalist approach to the guitar serves a higher commitment to a harmonic beauty - a clear sign of a guitarist on the rise.

The duo have recorded with the cream of Melbourne's music crop including: sam keevers: piano & rhodes, ben robertson: double bass, dave beck: drums, alex pertout: percussion chong lim: hammond

Vanessa looks to produce another original release in 2019 within the Soul / Roots genre with a compelling new EP. This one off collaboration will combine music production by one of Melbourne's pioneering, vintage, esoteric producers, Greg J Walker (Machine Translations, Paul Kelly, C.W Stoneking, Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries, Molly and Hoges) and will feature a new collection of songs that speak to lovers of old soul, serpentine roots and antiquated sounds and stories.

vanessafernandezmusic.com



REVIEWS

Improvjazzation Nation Magazine (US)

There's magic in the air these folks inhabit, no doubt about it... Vanessa's strong and seductive vocal style will light up your world... Steve's guitar work will lightly suck you into the sonic vortex he creates for you... this debut CD is one of the best listens I've had this year. They picked expert talent to join them (Sam Keevers on keyboards, Ben Robertson on double bass, Dave Beck doing drums, Alex Pertout on percussion, and Chong Lim on hammond organ), and the recording is top quality..... You'll find yourself listening over & over to all 10 tunes... this CD is a definite KEEPER that gets a MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED from me. "EQ" (energy quotient) rating is 4.96.

This is Books Music (US)

John Book

..... If calling yourself "jazz" is a means of showing talent and grace, then Fernandez & Wright have this in abundance. Outside of great playing and singing, the songwriting on this is the kind that used to be in abundance as well, but has been hidden as a specialty item in today's musical menu..... Wright's guitar work, both acoustic and electric, add the perfect aura to Fernandez's voice, and having a great band behind them will make the light bulbs flicker in the mind to make the listener say "yes, this is perfect, or the closest thing to it." Had Soulstice or Gina Rene branched out into a more jazzier vibe, it may have sounded like the music created by Fernandez & Wright."

The Borderland (UK)

"Fernandez & Wright are a duo, a partnership between vocalist and writer Vanessa Fernandez and guitarist and writer Steve Wright. Together they have written ten songs that straddle the pop, soul, r'n'b and jazz genres..... Of course, soulful female vocalists aren't that rare, but I think that Vanessa Fernandez should appeal to the buyers of Amy Winehouse, Duffy, and Adele albums. In some ways I think Ms Fernandez is actually a more soulful singer, and while she may not testify in the stratospheric style of Aretha, she gets the message over in a much more dignified manner. For a debut album this is damned impressive stuff and highly recommended".

MIDWEST RECORD (US)

CHRIS SPECTOR

Editor and Publisher

"This duo of transplants met by accident in Oz and stuck together when the sparks began to fly. Vanessa Fernandez has the sound of the classic jazz thrushes and really knows how to work it. Tasty throughout and classy but accessible, this is a delightfully sophisticated set that's just what the doctor ordered when your inner adult is trying to escape and look like he knows what's going on. Well done and quite the auspicious debut".

Yahoo

Arts and Entertainment (US)

Susan Frances

"The smooth jazz pair of vocalist Vanessa Fernandez and guitarist Steve Wright are crafters of modern bossa nova motifs and contemporary blues riffs.....Fernandez's larynx stretches the lyrics beyond what people would imagine is humanly possible. She does so beautifully and effectively injects emotion into the words".

MAG-JB Hi Fi (AUS)

Billy Pinnell

(4 out of 5 stars)

"Singer Vanessa Fernandez and guitarist Steve Wright first performed together in 2004 sparking a chemistry that would eventually give birth to one of the decade's most impressive debut releases. Their original compositions, mostly about love, lost, found and sustained, provide perfect vehicles for Vanessa's expressive voice and Steve's understated, melodic acoustic and electric guitars. Ace session players contribute keyboards (Sam Keevers, Chong Lim) double bass (Ben Robertson) drums (Dave Beck) and percussion (Alex Pertout) throughout an infectious mix of folk, jazz, latin, blues and blues/rock. The album's intimate feel (band tracks were recorded live) adds to its appeal".

