

REVIEW by *ALL ABOUT JAZZ* - August 2008

Hello Again and Chamomile Tea and Other Delights are a pair of releases from a dynamic duo you are going to be pleased to discover. Crisp and cheerful toned vocalist Lisa Hindmarsh has teamed up with composer Dana Paul Robinson to create a brand new songbook of material. The selections, as well as Hindmarsh's delivery, evoke a Broadway musical like presentation, with clever lyrics and catchy melodies which are high on the sophisticated meter courtesy of the inspired Robinson. The supporting trio of Mike Frank on piano, Steve Beskron on bass, and Frank Gattis on drums is supportive, able to be reflective, as in "Maybe It's Time To Say Hello Again" from Hello Again, or winsome and comforting as on "I'd Go Anywhere" (also off Hello Again). Hello Again, which was originally recorded in 2005, and Chamomile Tea and Other Delights from this year, actually have too much to admire. Both releases brim with Hindmarsh's voice displaying an incredible range and diversity. Hello Again includes some swinging tenor saxophone from Tony Salicandro on the sassy and bluesy "He Cast A Spell On Me". She dramatically undulates a story on "Let Me Hear Spring Again", but can also be cute as a button while introducing "The Sun Doesn't Shine Anymore". Hindmarsh and Robinson's more recent Chamomile Tea and Other Delights release finds the vocalist in the same mode, with her voice having a slight wry smile added to the mix. The Burt Bacharach-inspired "I Can't Get Over Him" includes some nice trumpet, while the clarinet is a nice accompanist to Hindmarsh's clear and crisp reading of the title track, "Chamomile Tea". Her ability to take chordal leaps with ease and facility, as on "Funny, I Never Noticed Before" is quite stunning and inspiring. She has a bass duet on the Gershwin-esque "Why Wasn't I Advised?" that is bluesy at its most indigo. There are a plethora of songs on these two recordings that will inspire musicians to select something new to blow on, as well as songbook fans that want something besides the same old stuff that will find Dana Paul Robinson to be a delightful alternative.

Review by A&R Select

Composer and lyricist Dana Robinson stands among the elite of modern songwriters keeping classic flames alive and bristling with contemporary appeal. Robinson's delectable vocal jazz songs burst with atmosphere, finding the right flow of smooth jazz grooves and silky melodies. His music is alive with charm, exuding irresistible appeal and personality

Robinson writes his music but does not perform it himself. Nonetheless, he's anything but in the background. Interpreted by the right performers, Robinson's music is charged with electricity and bears the hallmarks of an original artist. His music, while rooted in classic sounds, is hardly old hat. Originality brings the vitality to Robinson's music; his songs are his own and to hear one of them is to understand that.

Robinson's music of late has been culling praise thanks to a pair of releases with performer Lisa Hindmarsh. "Hello Again" and "Chamomile Tea and Other Delights" are both albums that find Robinson in peak form, filling the air with the kind of music that keeps patrons in clubs until last call and keeps the home listener pinned to his stereo until the last note fades away. "Hello Again" and "Chamomile Tea and Other Delights" are Robinson's third and fourth albums.

Robinson is taking a different turn with his next project. Another batch of Robinson originals is in the works, but this time out he is working with a male vocalist. Once again, Robinson is exploring the world of vocal jazz music, putting together another vital addition in the jazz canon. He's currently working with A&R Select, the world's leading independent artist development firm, based out of Los Angeles, CA.

Jazz is alive and relevant; Dana Robinson is one of those artists keeping the juices flowing through this important genre.