

Band: Lianne Fournier
Album: The Gift (Independent)

Winnipeg's Lianne Fournier has contributed to the local music scene for decades (The Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, The Wyrld Sisters, Camerata Nova, The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, The World Village Gospel Choir, Trivocals) yet surprisingly new release "The Gift" is actually a first solo album for her. The songs were written over a number of years and with the help of a whole host of local singers and players Fournier has fashioned a luminous collection here. Opening track "Eat Sing Love" is the most recently written track and it's easy jazz/pop styling takes the lead faultlessly. The core band backing Fournier here consists of local jazz scene cats Ego Spank and it is their solid association to her arrangements that makes many of these songs so potent. From here the album bobs and weaves stylistically - delicate ballads like the charming "The Gift" and the alluring "Grace of An Angel" to the agile funk of "By the Light of the Fire" and the meditative swoon of "Goodby Hello". Besides adding her own piano and guitar to a few of the songs it's the further additional squad of contributors that make "The Gift" just that much better throughout. Whether it is the huge choir on the Elton John-esque "Love Will Never Let You Down", Ken Gold's note perfect saxophone solo on the title track or violinist Richard Moody's tasteful eastern-motif outro on "Goodby Hello" this album is truly a splendid collaborative effort. No matter the age of the song Fournier's lyrics are all about the journeys we experience in life and the attitude we construct around the events we experience. The gift this artist shares here is one we can all benefit from.

Check out: "Downtown", "By The Light Of The Fire"

**** Stars

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