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CONCERT LISTINGS  
FEATURES  
REVIEWS

## JAZZ AND IMPROVISED

**For You**  
**Carol Welsman**  
**Welcar Music WMCD369**  
**(carolwelsman.com)**



► I have long been up for any recording by Canadian jazz singer and pianist Carol Welsman (now Los Angeles-based), and my admiration continues

with her most recent CD, *For You*. It is a solo recording except for three tracks on which expert guitarist Paulinho Garcia plays. The title refers to a social media process: after listening to 30-second soundbytes, around 5,000 voters selected the songs. The result is 16 standards in a wide variety of moods, styles and languages, each song presented with enough musical intimacy to suggest that it is indeed, *For You*.

On this disc Carol Welsman sings in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian – regardless, her excellent diction and sense of style are convincing as is heard in such titles as *Les Parapluies de Cherbourg* (Legrand) and *Corcovado* (Jobim). American numbers show the same clarity and sensitivity to lyrics, suggesting many different moods. Her delivery is direct and almost non-vibrato in *Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered*, breathy and sensual in *My Foolish Heart*, and vulnerable, almost down to a whisper in *Skylark*. Those remembering her exuberant singing and pianism in earlier times may be surprised by the restrained contralto and spare apt accompaniments on this CD. Yet she conveys a feeling of optimism, and a sense of more closeness is now gained, perhaps abetted by producer Takao Ishizuka. The disc has already been a bestseller among jazz listeners in Japan.

**Roger Knox**