

Southern Exposure: The Many Vocal Facets of Dorothy Doring

Contributed by Andrea Canter, Contributing Editor
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Twin Cities' vocalist/educator

Dorothy Doring hasn't released a recording since 1999's *About Time*, and indeed, it was "about time" for another. What's fascinating about her new project is not only the diversity of material—from Gershwin to Bacharach to Coltrane and Joe Greene—but also the flexibility and stylistic range of Doring's voice. An amalgam of pop, R&B, and blues, all drawing from a deep well of jazz experience, *Southern Exposure* (Quarter Note Records) presents the many voices of this uniquely eclectic artist. David Torkanowsky's arrangements take full advantage of Doring's background in rock, country, Latin, R&B, and of course, jazz, and joyfully infuse her vocals with the New Orleans' vibe created by an outstanding supporting cast. With a local band ably filling in the rhythm section, and downtown Minneapolis taking the place of the Delta, the release *Southern Exposure* will be celebrated on November 29th at the Dakota.

Meet Dorothy Doring

Known in her

Minnesota hometown as "the little girl with the big voice,"

Dorothy was already singing on stage at age four and on local radio at age 9. Formal voice training began when she was 12 and by 13 she was singing rock 'n roll with a local band. After high school, Dorothy majored in vocal music at Moorhead State University, performing in opera recitals as well as area venues as a folk/pop singer and guitarist. Moving to the Twin Cities after completing her BA degree, Dorothy began her career as a full-time musician, taking time along the way to earn an MA in Education.

In

1999, Dorothy released her debut CD, *About Time*, which earned a nomination for the Minnesota Music Awards "Jazz CD of the Year." A member of the Minnesota chapter of the Jazz Vocal Coalition, today she balances performance and teaching, currently as a music educator for the St. Paul Public Schools and on stage at music venues throughout the Twin Cities.

Southern Exposure

You can't pigeon-hole this music or the voice. Dorothy can emote longing passion as on the opening and closing tunes ("Beseme Mucho" and "Throw It Way," respectively); she can take Bacharach to R&B territory ("What the World Needs Now"); add a voice to a jazz classic ("Giant Steps") as if it was always meant to be sung; and take the blues to the Delta ("Don't Let the Sun Catch You Cryin'"). She can sing it sweet, with grit, with zing, with smoke, with salt.

The recording's supporting cast draws on some of the finest talents in New Orleans. Derek Douget shines throughout on tenor, from his dark, seductive soloing on "Beseme Mucho" to a swinging romp on "I Love Paris" to his playful interactions with Doring on "That Old Black Magic." Tim Greene also takes a turn on tenor, wailing magnificently on "Don't Let the Sun Catch You Cryin'", full of bayou bravado. On guitar, Steve Masakowski particularly brings the instrumental to the foreground with a lightly fleeting solo on "I Love Paris" and nice turns on "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" and "Throw It Away." The percussion section deserves special mention, with Simon Lott (drums) opening the beat with a tribal groove on "Throw It Away" and punctuating with crackling pops throughout; Michael Skinkus (percussion) creates a unique sonic palette that underlies

several tracks, giving a Caribbean-meets-Detroit zing to “What the World Needs Now.” But the instrumental hero here is arranger/producer David Torkanowsky. In addition to a wide ranging set of arrangements that showcase both Doring and the band, he manages piano, Wurlitzer, Fender Rhodes, and B-3 keyboards.

The CD title is Southern Exposure, and indeed, there is a tropical breeze blowing throughout the ten tracks. But, above all, this is Doring Exposed, a gem of many facets, polished to a fine sheen and catching a different color, a different shading, at every turn. The six-year wait was well worth it. Dorothy Doring’s Southern Exposure should bring ballyhoos from the Bayou and, even with our Northern restraint, plenty of smiles and applause from the other end of the Mississippi.

For the CD Release bash at the Dakota (November 29th), Dorothy has assembled a stellar cast—Tanner Taylor (piano), Gordy Johnson (bass), Mac Santiago (drums), Dave Karr (sax), and Brian McLaughlin (guitar).

Southern Exposure is available through www.cdbaby.com, www.amazon.com, www.efetus.com, and www.lawmusicarchives.com, as well as at the Dakota on November 29th. The Dakota is located at 1010 Nicollet Mall, www.dakotacooks.com. Sets begin at 7 pm. Keep up with Dorothy Doring at www.dorothydoring.com