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## The Arts

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## CD REVIEW

## Young Stowe expatriate delivers winning album

By Art Edelstein  
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**O**K, Valentine's Day is over, but there will be other days when romance is in the wind. When the mood strikes again I suggest playing "On My Way to You" by Taryn Nöelle as a mood enhancer.

Nöelle, formerly of Stowe and who now calls Manhattan home, has released a first album of standards and pop love songs which showcase her considerable vocal abilities as well as highlighting an emerging talent whose star is beginning to ascend.

**Nöelle sings with a sweetness and sincerity surprising for a youthful performer. It's all very engaging.**

For her first recording venture, Nöelle, whose teenage years found her performing in local theater as Taryn Nöelle Eisenberg, chose to keep the arrangements simple with only piano accompaniment on the 10 tracks. With the nimble fingers of Montpelier native Joe Davidian on the keyboard for nine tracks, Nöelle delivers the CD's program with a voice that is lush, pretty and accessible.

Vermont has few, if any piano bars, so this CD may be as close as we'll get to the Carlyle Hotel where singers like the late Bobby

Short held court for years, crooning in the intimate atmosphere that such a venue allows.

Nöelle's voice is presented up front in the mix. The sound here is so intimate that the listener has the distinct impression that she and Davidian have somehow transported themselves to the living room for a personal concert.

Throughout the CD, Nöelle sings with a sweetness and sincerity surprising for a youthful performer. It's all very engaging.

Listening to her, I was reminded of the voices I'd heard in

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movie musicals of the 1950s and 1960s. There's a bit a Doris Day and Barbra Streisand in Nöelle's delivery. Hers is the voice of a friend, the girl next door, tuneful, attractive and unaffected. While she's had considerable vocal coaching, and sang in an Irving Berlin revue in Indiana last summer, Nöelle never sounds too important or smug.

Davidian's piano style is perfectly suited to this recording. He plays with sophistication in an understated way that never outshines Nöelle's voice. In Davidian, Nöelle has the perfect accompanist. But he, too, gets to shine taking several long piano solos during the vocal breaks. Davidian an

emerging jazz talent, improvises tasty passages in his solos.

Nöelle chose songs, which for the most part have become standards. "I'm Old Fashioned," "Tea for Two," "What'll I Do?" "Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps," and "La Vie en Rose" are in every jazz singer's fake book. And while they may seem a bit dated for a young, early-20s singer, she delivers them in a straightforward and knowledgeable manner and does not seem to be stretching the credulity of the listener. This is not an ingénue working above her level of ability. Nöelle apparently has decided not to "jazz" up these songs, which works to her advantage.

"Fever" the old Peggy Lee

hit, finds Nöelle, on this tune backed by Chas Eller on keyboard, and Nick DeNoia on bass, in her most playful mood.

However, for me, "Bring It on Home to Me," the Sam Cooke chart-breaker, and "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?" the Shirelles' hit, were the two songs Nöelle most shines on. On these tracks the listener gets treated to vocals that represent both her best singing and her best interpretations.

The show tune "My Coloring Book" and the title track, "On My Way to You," by Michel LeGrand, round out this all too short debut album.

All in all, "On My Way to You," is a fine first effort and Taryn Nöelle has a promising career ahead of her.

