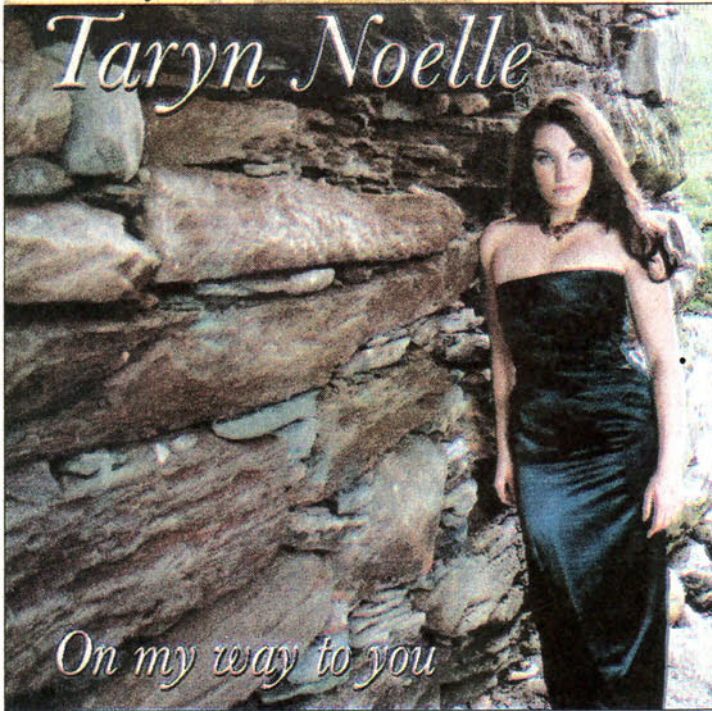
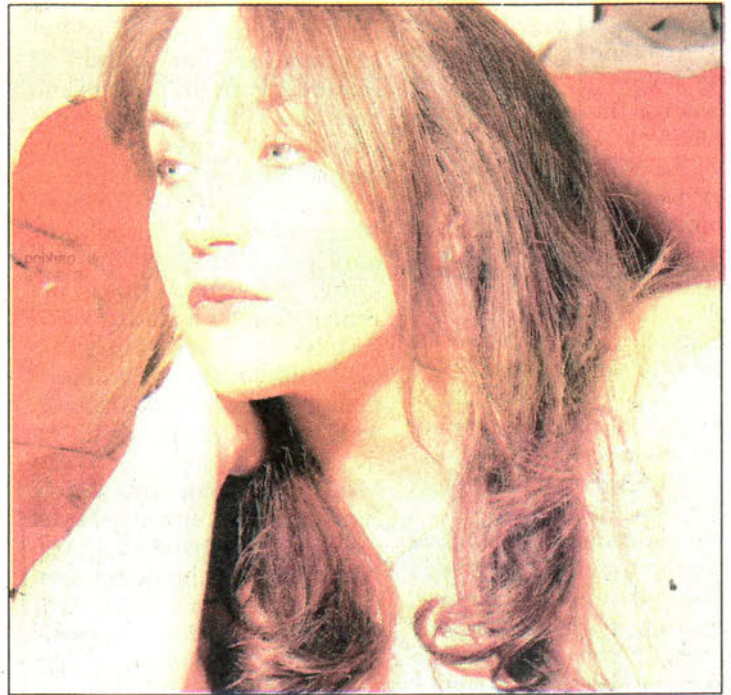


Taryn Noelle: "There Was A Boy..."



Noelle's debut album, "On My Way to You."



Submitted photo

Singer/songwriter Taryn Noelle.

By Art Edelstein

ARTS CORRESPONDENT

Taryn Noelle's second CD, "There Was A Boy..." shows a maturing artist confident enough in her abilities as a jazz vocalist to release a live album.

For this album Noelle performs with a backing trio of Dan Skea on piano, John Rivers on bass and Cody Sargent on drums. The venue for this CD recorded last Aug. 5 is Ye Olde England Inn in her home town of Stowe.

Live albums can be problematic, especially when they are based on a single performance. Any recording is simply a moment in time and performances can vary from take to take or day to day. So, in this case, Noelle must be very assured of herself to release this one-shot recording. This reviewer agrees.

"There Was A Boy..." is a well-recorded 50-minute performance by an up-and-coming jazz chanteuse who is on the verge of wider recognition.

Noelle won best vocalist for the 2006 Tammie Awards presented by the Times Argus for her first recording the 2005 release, "On My Way to You." That CD was a vocal/piano duo with Montpelier native Joe Davidian. It showcased a new voice in a musical style Vermont is not well known for. Jazz and pop standards are not generally our native fare, but Noelle, who was brought up in Stowe, showed what a young singer (she's in her early 20s) could do with material not of her generation.

Noelle does not have a "big" voice, as does Tammy Fletcher for example. She isn't a homerun hitter, vocally speaking, and her delivery isn't one that's going to get an audience on its feet from the emotion of the singer. Instead, one hears a controlled, comforting voice. Her light soprano has a lot of warmth and sweetness, and her delivery never seems edgy or hesitant. She's easy to listen to, but more vocal dynamics might make her album a bit more interesting especially toward the end of the performance.

Still, on this second album Noelle shows an increasing maturity. In "On My Way to You" listeners had an intimate setting, a personal concert, with a very good singer. On "There Was A Boy..." the setting is a small club with a jazz trio. Yet Noelle remains close to her listener. The live applause is subdued and the background noise minimal. In this setting you still feel this per-

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Noelle's repertoire encompasses the work of many of the great songwriters of the 1930s to 1950s. There is Cole Porter's "Too Darn Hot," and "Why Can't You Behave?" She also does Rodgers and Hammerstein's, "It Might as Well Be Spring," and the World War II Andrews Sisters hit "Bei Mir Bist du Schon." Other tracks include; "Am I Blue," "In the Wee Small Hours," "Bye Bye Black Blackbird," "Never, Never Land," "Nature Boy," "Dindi" and Bobby Darin's "Dream Lover."

While all the songs are sung in her warm, relaxed manner, "Dream Lover" stood out. Noelle took a different reading to this late 1950s hit, infusing new life into a very good song that probably hasn't been recorded in 40 years.

In her previous work Noelle also was most successful with the pop/rock songs she sang. While she's too young to have heard these songs when first released, she seems to have her closest affinity to that era of songs. I wonder how Noelle would sound doing an all Beatles album.

Special praise for Noelle's backing trio should be noted. Skea, Rivers and Sargent lay down a solid groove that never intrudes on her singing. They are present and very competent, but never overpowering.

Taryn Noelle is a very promising singer. Because she splits her time between New York City and Vermont, there haven't been enough opportunities to hear this fine vocalist and attractive young performer in concert. Until you can catch her live, "There Was A Boy..." is a good example of jazz/pop music delivered by the next generation of vocalists.