

Patty carpenter

MEMORIES
OF LOVE'S
REFRAIN

epiphany



Patty Carpenter's latest recording brings into harmony her love of good, hard-swinging jazz, her appreciation for the song writing craft, and the pleasures of her daytime job, singing for senior citizens in senior centers and nursing homes throughout New England.

As those who have heard her know, Patty has a strong, clear and wonderfully buoyant trumpet-like voice and an affinity for long, swinging straight-ahead lines, like those of her favorite tenor saxophonists John Coltrane, Dexter Gordon, and Wayne Shorter. She also has an ear for the emotional content of the lyrics. She sings to tell a story and find meaning in the words. *Memories of Love's Refrain* is taken from a line in Hoagy Carmichael's famous *Stardust*. It's a favorite with her senior audiences who confide to Patty that they "fell in love" to that song. Patty Carpenter's love of music began in the mid-fifties when, still a toddler, she first heard *The Hall of the Mountain King* from Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite. Her grandfather, who lived in her house in Rochester, New York, had a large classical collection. As Patty grew up, she listened to folk, rock, pop, blues and jazz. She played piano, bottleneck guitar, and sang in local coffeehouses. Her first musical hero was Julie Andrews. From Mary Poppins she matured to dig Joan Baez, Janis Joplin and Billie Holiday. (Annette Funicello was another early hero, — "but not for her singing," Patty says.)

Patty takes a special delight in singing for seniors. As a teenager, she often took her grandfather to the local senior center. She'd sing and play the piano and the old folks would love it. Now she does it on a regular circuit. "Seniors are a hip audience," Patty says. "They know good music. They grew up listening to swing bands and know all the standards. Playing for them can be a wonderfully moving experience. It's like transporting them back to their youth."



In the jazz studies program at the University of Massachusetts, Patty studied with tenor saxophonist Archie Shepp and bassist Reggie Workman. Workman told her, "if you want to sing the music, learn its history," which Patty did. There's a lot of Miles Davis' bittersweet blues in her version of *Bye Bye Blackbird*, and Billie Holiday-like behind-the-beat phrasing in *I Can't Give You Anything but Love*, and the other up tempo numbers.

Patty spent a year in New York City, playing the piano bar circuit, but wanted to raise her family in rural New England. (Daughter Melissa, a singer in her own right who often gigs with her mother, sings the harmony on *When I Grow Too Old To Dream*.) Music keeps her busy. In addition to her work with seniors and her gigs (solo or with jazz accompaniment) in area clubs and restaurants, she has her own rock band, Patty & the Cakes and does big band dates with the Radio Swing Orchestra. She's also available, along with her musician friends, for the proverbial weddings, parties and bar mitzvahs.

The small towns and back roads of the Connecticut River Valley are bursting with artists, writers and musicians who have chosen to escape — or never wanted to be part of — the Big Apple pressure cooker. Some of the best local jazz musicians back Patty on this record.

Tom McClung, who grew up in Northampton and graduated from Marlboro College, is every singer's favorite pianist in the Valley. He also plays and records with the Paradise City Jazz Band and does solo work. A hard-driving improviser who knows how to lay-back and complement a singer, McClung reminds this listener of another Bay State stay-at-home pianist, Dave McKenna. Tenor saxophonist **Fred Haas** has toured with Ray Charles, Tommy Dorsey, and Pat Metheny. He often gigged with the late, great guitarist Atilla Zoller and teaches sax, piano and jazz studies at Dartmouth and Middlebury Colleges. Dave

Shapiro played bass in the house band of Eddie Condon's famous New York City jazz club and has recorded with Chet Baker, Woody Herman, Lee Konitz, Anita O'Day and Howard McGee. **Draa Hobbs** is a virtuoso guitarist and songwriter who has played with Tal Farlow, Jon Friedman, Attila Zoller, Harold Danko, and George Mraz. He teaches at Marlboro College, Northfield-Mount Hermon and at the Vermont Jazz Center. Drummer **Randy Kaye** has collaborated with Jimmy Giuffre for over 25 years and has played with Jimi Hendrix, Sheila Jordan, Roswell Rudd, Charlie Mariano and Tony Scott.

Whether you swooned to Sinatra or jitterbugged to Goodman, Miller, the Dorseys, and Count Basie, whether you are a twenty or thirty-something, a teenage slacker, a generation 'x-er,' or a baby boomer like Patty, you are sure to be touched by *Memories of Love's Refrain* and the marvelous, lyrical singing of Patty Carpenter. — Marty Jezer. *Marty Jezer, who spent the best part of his youth sipping cokes at such jazz joints as Birdland, the Half Note, and the Five Spot in New York City, is author of 'The Dark Ages: Life in the USA, 1945-1960' (South End Press); 'Rachel Carson: Biologist & Author' (American Women of Achievement Series); 'Abbie Hoffman: American Rebel' (Rutgers University Press); and 'Stuttering: A Life Bound Up in Words' (Basic Books).*

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This Time It's Love has been receiving air play around the country and gathering some great reviews:

"Patty Carpenter displays the casual professionalism that one would expect from someone who's worked the woods as a singer. She knows and loves these songs. She's comfortable with them, and treats them all as good friends, taking them as they are and enlivening them gently. Her one original, *Across the Square*, gets that same treatment, easily fooling the listener into believing this, too, is a standard, albeit one not often heard. In fact, Carpenter so effectively puts her own song across that it is easily the highlight of the session, a song that when it arrives elicits a mental 'ahh.'" — *David Dupont, Cadence Magazine*

"Patty Carpenter sings with a lot of soul. Evidence of her sensitivity and experience of having lived, rather than merely learned the music, permeates every track of her new CD *This Time It's Love*. Patty demonstrates her broad range of dynamics, from the whispering articulations on the classic *Lover Man* to the down home, grinding gut-bucket sounds Patty offers on the slow backbeat rendition of *Across the Square* and *All Blues*. There's about 58 minutes worth of music on this CD and all of it is worth every penny." — *Eric Nemeyer,*

The Green Mountain Jazz Messenger

"I was totally knocked out by the vocals. What a voice...I flat out loved it...Patty Carpenter was an epiphany for me." — *Larry Routt, Music Programmer, WOBO, Cincinnati, OH*



No Regrets LP: epiphany 101



This Time It's Love CD: epiphany 103

No Regrets was a (mostly) all woman rock 'n roll dance band that garnered a loyal following throughout New England during the 1980s and early 90s. This LP captures some of their original tunes, and shows Patty off at an earlier stage of her career.



COMING SOON. A new CD featuring vocals by Patty Carpenter and her daughter, Melissa Shetler. The two have played together for years, and at a recent recording session they were joined by Scott Shetler, Melissa's father and Patty's ex, who is a noted reed man and session player out of Boston.

Long time associate Draa Hobbs plays guitar, and the dynamic band is filled out with great New York players on piano, bass, and drums. The CD offers an eclectic mix of jazz, blues, rhythm & blues, and Latin inflected tunes which dramatically highlight the haunting harmonies of Patty and Melissa.

Songs include *The Glory of Love*, *They Can't Take That Away From Me*, *All the Things You Are*, *Satellites*, *Angel from Montgomery*, *Ponto De Aria*, *Va Ci Lon*, *Another Star*, *Moanin'*, and *Watch What Happens*.

Look for it in early 2002.

*“...and now the purple
dust of twilight time
steals across the meadows
of my heart.”*

— Stardust

