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# Rae Ann Perez, "Midnight in Paris"

BY RICK DE YAMPERT, ENTERTAINMENT WRITER 

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**Vital Stats:** Port Orange pianist and vocalist Rae Ann Perez says she was influenced as a child by her parents' records of Xaviar Cugat, Stan Getz, Astrud Gilberto, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and others.



Rae Ann Perez, "Midnight in Paris"

Later, her taste expanded to include various world styles and such artists as Dave Brubeck, Oscar Peterson, Bill Evans, Anita O'Day, Hammond B-3 king Jimmy Smith and Chick Corea.

On "Midnight in Paris," Perez is backed by her husband, Meir Perez, on drums and percussion, Chuck Archard on electric and acoustic bass and Bobby Koelble on electric and acoustic guitars.

**The Music:** "Midnight in Paris" swings beguilingly through torch songs, mod vocal jazz and airy Latin confections, all fueled by Rae Ann's seductive voice -- a voice that's far more stylish than a chain-smoking saloon singer, yet more earthy than a dove's cooing.

The title track, one of eight Rae Ann originals, is a torchy, wish-I-was-in-love-again ballad, yet the delicate hopscoth she tosses into her piano solo takes the song beyond a simple lost-love tale ... hey, maybe this lass is stronger than she's letting on.

"Astrud" is a sprightly bossa nova that pays tribute to the Brazilian-born chanteuse known for her vocals on "The Girl From Ipanema." "Livin' Las Vegas" is uptown swing that recalls the peppy style of Manhattan Transfer.

"Summertime" -- yes, the ol' Gershwin war horse -- is pumped up by a muscular but spry world-beat groove from the Meir-Archard rhythm section. The rhythm dudes get even-more-frisky on Peggy Lee's "I Love Being Here With You," with Meir daring to approach "Drum Boogie" mode.

**You'll Like This If You Like:** Diana Krall, Astrud Gilberto, Anita O'Day

**Website:** raeannperez.com

**CD Available At:** Amazon.com, iTunes, cdbaby.com

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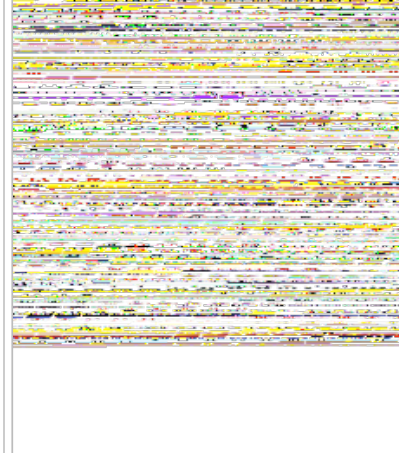


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