

Jazz Examiner picks top 13 albums from 2013

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Lili Añel “...Can See Bliss From Here”

When Philly vocalist Lili Añel tells her story, she doesn't hold back. Armed with a firm grip on jazz and R&B, the singer/songwriter/musician uses her life experiences, not all of them Disney-worthy, to reach in and grab listeners by the soul in handfuls. Her September 17, 2013, Wall-I Records release “I Can See Bliss From Here” rocks the hell out of bad breaks and big dreams. Añel can go from crooning about losing her hair and losing her job like it's nothing, to embracing every possibility, without missing a beat. She's got good people on this recording, Dale Melton, Yasuyo Kimura, and



Victor Rendon on the flavored beats (congas, bongos, guiro, timbales). But this record is all hers. She plays a mean guitar, yet she's gentle and loving when she needs to be (“The Best Part Of Me [Song For Joey]” is amazing). What's even more amazing is, her kindness, decency, and beauty shine through with every jam. “Añel's distinctive vocals catch every note and every emotion out of place. Her music gives jazz and blues their due, imbuing a deep credibility, and a deeply personal sense of self in a strange, borrowed world, while calling to mind in equal measure, kindred spirits Phoebe Snow, Joni Mitchell, Sting, Tracy Chapman, Janis Ian, and Steely Dan.” It's so easy to love her.

- 1 Kevin Eubanks “The Messenger”
- 2 Heather Masse and Dick Hyman “Lock My Heart”
- 3 Carol Duboc “Smile”
- 4 Will Calhoun “Life In This World”
- 5 Jaimeo Brown “Transcendence”
- 6 Sacha Boutros “NY After Dark”
- 7 Yelena Eckemoff Trio “Glass Song”
- 8 Venissa Santi “Afro Cuban Holiday”
- 9 Keiko Matsui “Soul Quest”
- 10 Lorraine Feather “Attachments”
- 11 **Lili Añel “I Can See Bliss From Here”**
- 12 Dave Holland “Prism”
- 13 Cécile McLorin Salvant “Woman Child”