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## Lili Anel

### Every Second In Between

Wall-I

By [Ken Franckling](#)

Once in a great while, a CD arrives out of the blue with no fanfare and proceeds to blow your mind at first listen. For me, *Every Second in Between* is one of those rarities. New York-born and raised singer-songwriter-guitarist Lili Añel, who now calls Philadelphia home, has been plying and perfecting her jazz- and folk-tinged craft for some 30 years. Her wisdom and experience are the foundation for her music. Most of it revolves around the concepts of independence, empowerment and one's strong roots – in the grounding sense.



There is a hint of Nina Simone and Joan Armatrading in her vocal approach – and that isn't a bad thing. She enhances her stories with a percussive approach to the guitar that she credits to her Black and Cuban heritage. The only tunes she didn't write in full on *Every Second in Between* are the ballad "So Far Away," which was co-written with her identical twin sister, Barbara Añel, and her cover of the Fitz Rotter-written, Nina Simone-associated "That's All I Want From You." Bottom line, these vignettes focus on the quest for true love – with self-assurance and little tolerance for gamesmanship. The Simone-related title is a great summation of it – and Añel's pieces are similarly developed. The superbly crafted "So Far Away" yearns for a deep connection with a ideal lover, someone who hasn't come to the same realization – and may never do so. Grammy-winning producer and engineer winner Glenn Barratt produced this gem and plays guitar on three tracks.

Standouts among the dozen-plus musicians backing Añel include Joel Bryant on electronic keyboards and B3, Mayra Casales on percussion and John Conahan on piano. *Every Second in Between* is her fifth CD as a leader. She made her debut on the 1994 Palmetto release *Laughed Last*, which she re-issued in 2006 with the addition of three live concert bonus tracks. On this new disc, we hear Añel in full control.