



Island Mele John Berger

REVIEW

“Joy Ride”

Lou Ann Gurney
(Perryscope Records)

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Jazz vocalist Lou Ann Gurney teams up with musician/arranger Gregg Perry on this beautiful collection of American jazz standards. She deftly illuminates the emotions in the lyrics and makes each song worth hearing. He presides over an assortment of keyboards while leading a tight group of studio musicians. It's a perfect partnership.

Perry's three-man horn section adds impact to Gurney's swinging rendition of "There Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens," and slips in some noteworthy accents to "The Frim Fram Sauce." Gurney and Perry pay homage to Nat "King" Cole with a clean and mellow arrangement of "(Get Your Kicks on) Route 66." Next comes a soft and sweet rendition of "(Our) Love is Here to Stay," and several songs after that make a romantic detour into bossa nova.

Gurney completes her beautiful calling card by including brief comments about each song in the liner notes.