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Isabelle Georges
Feinstein's / 54 Below
254 West 54th St
Friday November 15

You haven't truly experienced the classic songs of Jacques Brel until you've heard them in the original Yiddish. Well, not the original Yiddish, but the Parisian songstress Isabelle Georges is an international chanteuse with the rare gift, one that she shares with Germany's Ute Lemper, of making her meaning and her message eminently understandable no matter what language she happens to be singing in. Her latest album, *Oh La La!* Has her singing in French and English, in styles from the Hot Club-ish "Je t'attends" to such Franglais standards as Edith Piaf's "La Vie en Rose," delivered more rhythmically than usual, and a dramatic reading of Charles Trenet's "Que reste-t-il de nos amours (I Wish You Love)" that starts slow and wistful in the verse but then explodes into tempo in the refrain. Having sung "Ne me quitte pas" in high Yiddish (as "Loz Mikh Nisht Aleyn" you'd think she would return the favor and sing "Bei Mir Bist du Schoen (Sheyn)" in French, but, no, she makes it sound just great in the original language. This is a rare New York appearance for Mademoiselle Georges, in the late spot following the brilliant Brian Stokes Mitchell, more about whom very soon.

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Author: Will Friedwald

Will Friedwald writes about music and popular culture for THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, VANITY FAIR and PLAYBOY magazine and reviews current shows for THE CITIVIEW NEW YORK. He also is the author of nine books, including the award-winning A BIOGRAPHICAL GUIDE TO THE GREAT JAZZ AND POP SINGERS, SINATRA: THE SONG IS YOU, STARDUST MELODIES, TONY BENNETT: THE GOOD LIFE, LOONEY TUNES & MERRIE MELODIES, and JAZZ SINGING. He has written over 600 liner notes for compact discs, received ten Grammy nominations, and appears frequently on television and other documentaries. He is also a consultant and curator for Apple Music.



Photography by: STEPHEN SOROKOFF

New Books:

THE GREAT JAZZ AND POP VOCAL ALBUMS (Pantheon Books / Random House, November 2017)

SINATRA: THE SONG IS YOU - NEW REVISED EDITION (Chicago Review Press, May 2018)

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