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Hi Debra,

Einerview

Well Deb I just need to state for the record that your recording debut is truly beautiful. Little Wing, standards inspired by angels is an enchanting mix of material. Your project clearly embraces the art of jazz and reveals your own voice, so congratulations. As for the musicians, world class cats - pianist/accordist Joe Chindamo and bassist Philip Rex.

Well Deb thank-you for your enthusiasm and support. Jazz music needs more people like you. One of the rewards for me is to achieve respect for what I do musically. The album celebrates being many aspects of love not designed for teenagers.

Let's kick off the interview with a run of spontaneous questions (I am listening to your Cd in the background and I can honestly say I have spent months enjoying it too so forgive me if I become distracted - laughing out loud).

a) How do you feel Deb, (take a deep breathe) your first recording project complete? I would love detail!

Wow many people ask me how I did it. The angel theme came about when I heard 'Gotta Date With an Angel', because very soon after that, like a matter of days I heard 'You May Not Be an Angel'. Then I got to thinking about angel songs. I already knew 'Angel Eyes'. Well that's three!!! So I started searching through my

repertoire for other like material and came up with a big fat zero. And so the search began. You know when I had finished the album and got back to Sydney a friend of mine said so what's your next ??? Phew!! And yes I had about three different albums ready to start in my head!

b) Did the project take longer than you thought it would? I guess you were prepared for it. Please elaborate? I am interested in the time span!

All together its about a years work. Gathering material, writing songs. The project once it picked up momentum took about 3 months from hearing Joe play in Sydney the first Angel song in the studio. Pretty much 24/7. It's an energy that has no bounds.

c) Now for the question that's been on my mind for months...You must have been inspired to produced this Cd. By Angels Deb? Or in a sense good people you would term angels of life? Are you just in love? Have you truly known love...during your childhood perhaps? I am keen to receive your response. (a few ?'s there Deb)

Family and music in that order are top of my list. My family is small. I have three daughters who aren't really angels and I would not be without them. I was inspired at the time of making 'little wing'. Inspired by life I was surrounded by magic. I felt vibrant and that's the joy about music which started when I was a kid. I didn't have a typical musician's up bringing. My dad was a jazz guitar player and mum shared me with him for about two years. After that it was just me and mum. I was free to explore and make stuff, write, paint and sing. She worked full time and I am an only child. We didn't have a TV until I was about 9 or 10. And yes I have been truly in love (which ended tragically).....and I am once again!!

d) I believe you desired to produce Little Wing in such a way that you would attract a wide audience appeal. Your music is not only suitable for 'the lovers', 'Mothers', and the jazz set who can't get enough of their favourite songs but I'm brave enough to say your music will appeal to the

discerning listeners who don't mind a good song and are ready to investigate jazz for the first time. How do you feel about my observations Deb? Who did you hope to reach with your sound?

I have a listening audience of all ages. As a live artist I guess I appeal to the baby bombers. Mind you that will depend on who I play with doesn't it? A band brings its own pleasures to the stage. I hoped to reach all kinds of people for different reasons. Little Wing needed a wide audience appeal because no one knows who I am really. I don't really want to be classified, you know? I just like to sing with jazz musicians. Making music is great therapy so I also believe that listening to it is equally beneficial. There is a lot of fast music out there, a lot of challenging beats and lyrics plenty to shake your thing to. I did want to produce something you could leave on the stereo, drift off come back to later, do a chore by, not invasive. And yes, bring jazz to people who aren't true jazz listeners I get comments like I don't really listen to jazz, but I like your CD. Your observations are really spot on Deb!!

e) Did you make a move on "Move" or did Move make a move on you? How did you make the connection with such an innovative Australian music label?

Deb about a year before I recorded little wing I emailed every jazz record label in Australia. Move actually replied! So I replied and they replied again. I sent them a sample and requested a letter of support for a project I was trying to get funding for. Move did that too!

f) I did enjoy a chat with Joe Chindamo recently and naturally the topic of your Cd emerged in our conversation. Deb I understand you have a high regard for Joe (you state this fact on the inside sleeve of your Cd Cover). Would there really be a 'Little Wing' project without the talent/influences of Joe Chindamo and for that matter without Phillip Rex? If yes or no please tell me why?

Yes and No!!! is the answer. It happened in this order I wrote to Move with my angel theme idea. They liked that. Then I thought well they are in Melbourne what if I rang Joe who I knew was Melbourne based, because I had just watched him play at the Side On Café in Sydney, and thought he was just the best. Move loved that idea and said if I get Joe they would record the album. So I rang Joe and Joe rang Phil.

G) As a vocalist you certainly have a delicate and song sensitive delivery... its very pretty at times and consistent. Have you pinned down your vocal range...?

My vocal range is an octave below middle C to about F or G two octaves above middle C.

H) Your delicate, song sensitive style I would describe as your own voice... and you seem content with it. Are you?

Yes. I like the idea that I am a 'little voice'. It's okay. We can't all be Ella. I don't try to mimic anybody. I try to sing as honestly as I can. I'm more concerned with the lyric content and melody rather than how I sound. The listener hears how I sound. It sounds different from my side. Does that make sense?

I) Wow heaps of brilliant composers on your project... did you have to dig deep for the material or have you grown up enjoying most of these composers/lyricists?

A bit of both Deb.... The one big surprise was Angel Bells. I've never heard a recording. I decided to double up the bars and give it a bluesy feel. That's all Joe and Phil needed to hear. Most of the material I grew up with, like the Carpenters, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Nat King Cole. Mum's favourite was Johnny Mathis.

Mind if we take time for a track by track analysis... ? A chance to get inside your head and explore your thoughts and responses about:

1) Like someone in Love (James Van Heusen/Johnny Burke)

American Heusen and Burke were a very popular song writing team around

the 1940's famous for Bing Crosby films I believe...

The way Joe Chindamo glides over the keys for this piece is delightful Deb!

Vocal wise a nice blend in the mix, careful so as not to overshadow the fine instrumental work. Was this your aim? As for the mood you evoked, how would you like to describe it? What did you hope to achieve?

I love the way in the 'King and I' and 'Beauty and the Beast' another example, Cinderella, it's about the ball gown and the waltz, more contemporary of course. I wanted to create that feeling of first love being whirled around hardly touching the ground. Being on the dance floor with someone you love is a very potent thing.

2) Angel Bells (Harry Ruby/ Herbert Spence/ Earl Hagan)

Ruby (Rubenstein), Spence, Hagan(alias Lionel Newman), these guys were responsible for heaps of TV themes especially Hagan and as for Ruby wonderful Soundtracks pre 50's.

Of course the trio were responsible for Angel Bells.

What attracted you to Angel Bells?

(Nice bass intro...you sound like a sweet lil' gal dreaming of a great love...it has an innocent warmth to it...oh and the accordion gives it an real european vibe!)

When I first spied the lyrics I thought it was a bit Doris. Then I played it a few times and thought this needs dirtying up a bit. So I killed Doris. Angels Bells is the dreaming, but about some one specific. Joe and Phil gave it the perfect touch. We played it once through, listened to it, and all got really excited. It was the best song to record.

3) And the Angels sing (Johnny Mercer/Ziggie Elman)

Mercer created heaps of hits for Bing Crosby in the late 30's!

Wow the nostalgia is wonderful...! Your thoughts about nostalgia would be interesting at this point!

(You seemed to really enjoy the musicians delivery of this piece, it had a swiny feel especially the way Joe

breezed through it.)

Doesn't this song have a great vibe! We are now happily dating.

I don't tell the musicians what to do. I choose them because I know what they can do. This applies to my gigs as well. I gave them a chord guide, that's all. The rest was up to us and what we could create together. I met Phil on the day!!

On Nostalgia I was born in wrong era that's for sure. When I hear a dixie swing I can't sit still! I want to be on the bandstand. Having said that I would have been very happy around the 50s and 60s!!

4) Close to You (Hal David/ Burt Bacharach)

Hal and Burt one of the most famous Songwriting Duo's of the twentieth Century. Care to comment about this track? I enjoyed your interpretation, gentle, controlled delivery. The space that you leave for the musicians gives a well known song an amazing face lift, a beautiful jazz vibe of course...

What would I be without Karen Carpenter? As for the song writing team (David/Bacharach) I love everything they wrote. The song tells me I am in love so much it hurts, its scary, it's moody.

5) If wishes were kisses (Debra Blaquiere/Jeremy Challender)

Firstly, Deb who is Jeremy/ co-writer? The lyrics of

'If wishes were kisses' are charming. What is the song about?

Joe's touch on the accordian in this piece sounds very romantic?

May I have a copy of the lyrics please?

Jeremy is a piano player/composer and a beautiful friend. We work together quite a lot. Currently he lives overseas. A friend of his mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and he composed the music for her. He asked me if I would write some lyrics for it. Deb what a topic, dying mothers, very sad. At the same time a friend of mine's mother was diagnosed with a very rare cancer and was dying. Her husband who adored her developed the very same rare cancer! This truly broke my heart and the lyrics came easily. I wrote them for Bill. The mother has since passed away, but Bill is still alive and well now. I wanted the song to portray the bravery in those who share the dying face it with the one they love.

6) Got a Date with an Angel (Clifford Grey, Sonny Miller, Jack Waller, Joseph Tunbridge).

Old fashioned, romantic vibes are glorious Deb (especially in the World that exist today... the fast food fast living lifestyle and war/s of late).

A piece like this sort of centres you and make you realise what is really important in life.... Love! Please share your feelings here especially about my viewpoint...

Ah there's nothing like dating! Australians don't do enough of it. It would be my only criticism of our culture. Too much sport not enough dating!!! Dining and dancing, the movies and holding hands. I love getting dressed up for a date. Not just a night out but a true date! Especially with some one you think you could make it with.

7) Come Fly with Me (Sammy Cahn/James Van Heusen)

Cahn and Heusen were quite a team in the 50's writing for film and Television. Frank Sinatra always springs to my mind when I hear this track. I felt this was an interesting challenge for you this cut. Was it? I mean overall it sounded good but it was like you were content to really let Joe and Phillip carry most of the sound journey and they do. You complete the journey though with a bit of scat... Care to share your feelings? Please do!

Yes they do carry it. I love working with different people they have their own unique colours in their music, same standards that never sound the same. They come with various levels of experience, you can only learn from that. The talent of the musicians I work with is so inspiring, sometimes I feel as if I'm just shining in their light. I was going to do it very bluesy and Joe suggested that it was a flying song. I arranged the little intro bit and Joe thought that the unexpected was called for....hence the bossa feel. It was my call for Phil to do a bass solo on this track.

8) Angel Eyes (Matt. Brent/Earl k. Dennis) (Sinatra recorded it for the Movie Jennifer in 53' I believe!)

Oh sultry number for you here Deb! Wow what was the dialogue in your head

when you recorded this track? How did you get into the space I am really saying?
It was probably that place where love ended tragically. I think we've all been to the place where we feel we will never love again. Especially after some one has died. I wasn't feeling morbid though, more cynical I guess.

9) I married an Angel (Richard Rodgers/Lorenz Hart)

Rodgers/Hart song writing duo spanned over 2 decades and clocked up at least 550 songs, nearly 30 shows and they worked together on several Movies.

Have you a story to share about this track... what happened in the studio during recording of this piece?

I imagined I was very shy, but I wanted to tell some one I had found this wonderful person. To speak out in song. Am I a hopeless romantic or what? The studio just disappears

10) You May not be an Angel (Al Dubin/ Harry Warren)

Wow you know Deb Dubin's parents had a background in Science, Father a doctor

and his Mother a Science Teacher...were you aware? I couldn't help noticing a connection there, I mean you do have a Science Degree don't you?(Laughing out loud) Anyway Al's chief collaborator was Warren and they penned heaps for the Studios of Warner Brothers during the 30's. Did you take on this track with the romance of the era in mind? I feel you did and I also feel Joe and Phillip were in the moment too!

Hey the science connection...Joe has a science degree as well. Honestly Deb, if there was one track I wanted to take off the album it was this one. The guys did a great job. Move and the guys seemed to like it vocally so I let it stay.

11) Carried Away (Graham Nash)

Crosby Still and Nash fame... Is this true? What is the story about Deb?

I am very interested in the background for I find the lyrics so interesting.

Yes many years ago....there is a story here, but I'd rather not get into it. All I'll say is sometimes you get a bolt out of the blue and you just act on it yeah? I love the groove we gave it. I really like the combination of Crosby, Stills and Nash they did

some really interesting work. So it is my way of paying homage to another remarkable team.

12) Little Wing (Debra Blaquiere)

A Debra Blaquiere original/title track. When you wrote this piece Deb had you earmarked it for this particular album project?

May I have a copy of the lyrics please Deb? Is it a lullabye?

Yes it is a lullabye. I really enjoy writing my own stuff. It's past journeys, life experiences that are my inspiration. I wrote a song recently called 'Are You Dancing Too?' which was inspired by a play I had seen at the Ensemble called 'The Boys Next Door', it was about life in a halfway house for down syndrome people. My song came to me when they decided to have a social night, they decorated and had this huge mirror ball. The lights went out, just a spot on the mirror ball and the actors became themselves, beautiful dancers floating around the room. Until this moment I had not even realised they were actors playing down syndrome people. You reversed that and realised that's how they saw themselves as beautiful gliding dancers, not awkward and uncoordinated which is our reality. Deb sometimes an idea gets stuck in your mind. The simple melody of little wing played around and around in my head. I wrote the lyrics to close the album, and then I thought it needed another layer, which is why I wrote it in French. Stuff just pops into your life and you have to use it somehow

Overall Deb I sense you had a deep emotional connection to this project.

You tried not to miss an opportunity to communicate how you really felt about each piece. Perhaps you were truly inspired by angels or you have been blessed with a natural ability to communicate your feelings through song.

Thanks Deb. Individually, the songs on the album are 'safe' to please as many people as I could, but the combination of the musicians gives the album its overall success. I appear sweet and composed throughout, yet there are underlying feelings coming out through each song. My motto is to be as honest as you can in song and in life, as you never know when an angel might be listening!

Deb, thank you for sharing your Talent !

It was an enjoyable experience!

In Jazz,

Deb Morrice

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Hi Deb,

You have a sweet almost whisper-ish delivery (vocals)...

Joe says very blossom dearish... would you agree with that?

(If not I won't even say it)

I had to run out and listen to her, she has a lot of flair, I was incredibly flattered.

I am looking for a better description... can you help...?

What is your exact vocal range please then I can figure it out...

Deb..

ps... sorry for taking my time... I am still ill... I had an xray the other day...

(it looks clear)

I started hot steam and DD this week... getting some relief...

Apparently though lots of people have had this virus that is causing

a wet cough, nagging cough... mine has been affecting me since Easter....

I am praying Spring helps....thanks for your suggestion too I went and grab

some vitamins and things natrapath...