

May I Introduce to You

San Francisco String Trio

A special pleasure is served by three exceptionally bright American Jazz professionals and Beatles fans: Mads Tolling (v), Jeff Denson (b, voc), and Mimi Fox (g) in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the legendary Sgt. Pepper's Albums. Fab Four turns into Fab Three with Mainstream Jazz, Swing, Django-Style, with bits of Ireland, some of India, a little Pop and Tango but never less than masterful Trio playing. "Mr. Kite" evokes Musette feeling, as it might escape from a Viennese Coffeehouse; in George Harrison's "Within You Without You" Mimi makes her arctop almost into a "Sitar-Guitar", but only after Mads used her and Jeff's unshakable foundation to superimpose an impression of Stephane Grappelli at the verge of insanity. In "Fixing a Hole" and "A Day in the Life" Jeff astonishes as an emphatic singer of immense vocal talent. It verges on the grotesque that Mimi is still virtually unknown in the European Union but at least her solo piece "She's Leaving Home" allows one to get an idea of the immense musical and guitaristic level of her playing.

In short: Each piece provides surprises, amusing and intriguing ideas, even idiosyncratic reharmonizations yet the spirit of the originals is never diminished in the process. And so one is astounded by the San Francisco String Trio and its unusual - and very endearing - birthday present.

-- Alexander Schmitz (Jazz Podium)