

digi-pak PB50142-2

Carolyn Graye

poems by Denise Levertov

Jazz textures set with prose and lyrics full of imagery and nature

“Carolyn Graye brings a happy sophistication to her interpretation of Denise Levertov’s enduring poems. She hears them with great clarity and makes her own defining response.”

Robert Creeley 1926–2005
award winning poet laureate



Carolyn Graye, voice and piano
Phil Sparks, bass
John Stowell, guitar
Hans Teuber, soprano and tenor sax, clarinet
Gary Hobbs, drums and percussion
Jim Knapp, trumpet
“Secret Festival; September Moon”
Thomasa Eckert, voice
Greg Williamson, audio composition

All poems by Denise Levertov (1923–1997)

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. A Dark Summer Day/
Adam’s Complaint | 4:22 |
| 2. The Well | 2:07 |
| 3. Window-Blind | 4:58 |
| 4. A Wren | 3:33 |
| 5. The Footprints | 7:27 |
| 6. 3 a.m., September 1, 1969/
The Absentee | 4:21 |
| 7. Exchange | 1:16 |
| 8. Mass of the Moon Eclipse | 4:31 |
| 9. Secret Festival; September Moon | 1:52 |
| 10. The Rain | 3:10 |

Recorded 2004 at David Lange Studios
“Secret Festival; September Moon” recorded at Jack Straw
Final mix and mastering by Greg Williamson, Pony Boy Studios
Design by Karen Hansen
All songs published by Joe Dog Music/BMI
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Sales Features:

- Stellar recording
- Award winning poet - crossing genres
- All-star musicians: John Stowell, Jim Knapp, Gary Hobbs
- Low textures and themes
- Nature imagery and aural themes
- Supported by grants including Artist Trust and Jack Straw Foundation

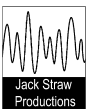
Markets:

- Jazz, Vocals
- Literature & Poetry
- Original & Experimental Music



Category:

- File in Jazz bins under Carolyn Graye
- Cross-file under Literature or Poetry
- Cross-file under Denise Levertov
- Posters and bin cards available



Marketing Highlights:

- Pony Boy national and regional ads
- Established radio servicing and support
- Exposure through live club appearances
- Use of established Internet marketing/Web page

Suggested Retail: \$14.98



Pony Boy Records | 5059 Pullman Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98105
www.ponyboyrecords.com | ph/fax: (206) 522-2210
jazz@ponyboyrecords.com

US distribution:
Burnside Distribution Corporation
1522 N. Ainsworth Street, Portland, OR 97217
ph: (503)231-0876 fax: (503)231-0420
www.bdcdistribution.com

CAROLYN GRAYE – QUOTES AND BIOGRAPHY

GENRE: JAZZ, POETRY, JAZZ VOCALS, SPOKEN WORD

“Carolyn Graye composes, sings, and plays piano... She does all of them well” - *Jazz Times*

“Carolyn Graye is certainly worth a listen” - *Adam Greenburg, All Music Guide*

“A real piano. It is night and nightclub jazz for those of us who really dig this...” - *Ben Ohmart, Muses Muse*

“great moments, Graye trusts the lyric, piano and voice to create music greater than the sum of its parts.” - *All About Jazz*

“...an impressive singer.” - *Jazz Times*

“witty and curiously conversational.” - *Prague Post*

“Carolyn Graye brings a happy sophistication to her interpretation of Denise Levertov's enduring poems.”
- *Robert Creeley, award winning poet laureate*



Carolyn Graye
poems by Denise Levertov



Singer/pianist/composer **Carolyn Graye** has performed in West Coast clubs, concerts and theatres since 1976. Locally, she has appeared at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Bumbershoot, the Bellevue Jazz Festival, the West Seattle Jazz Festival, Earshot's New City Series and A Contemporary Theatre (ACT.) She lived in Prague (1997-1998) and performed at festivals and clubs throughout the Czech Republic in addition to touring the Balkans (Serbia, Bosnia and Macedonia) on a USIA performance and teaching grant. She also performed in La Paz, Bolivia at the invitation of the U. S. Embassy there. Her debut CD **Carolyn Graye** (Pony Boy Records) spotlights **Jessica Williams**, **Julian Priestler** and **Jay Thomas** and features thoughtful compositions, solid swinging piano and singing that the Prague Post called "witty and curiously conversational." Graye released **Songs**, with Jessica Williams (OA2, 2003) in a duo setting. Since 2004, Graye has directed, accompanied and arranged for a vocal jazz group of 4-8 singers. She has written for **All About Jazz** and **Earshot Jazz** and has a BFA and MA in music.

Her newest recording, **Poems by Denise Levertov** (Pony Boy Records, 2005) sprang from earlier interviews and conversations with the well respected poet Levertov. It is a venture into texture and imagery, stepping back from the normal jazz boundaries, instead painting with muted colors and visions of nature. She uses familiar sounds in poetic ways. The recording was produced with grant assistance from Jack Straw Productions and Artist Trust.

DENISE LEVERTOV – BIOGRAPHY – AMERICAN POETRY PIONEER of ORGANIC FORM

POETS.ORG says “Levertov became associated with the Black Mountain group of poets, particularly **Robert Creeley**, **Charles Olson**, and **Robert Duncan**, who had formed the groundbreaking school in 1933 in North Carolina. Some of her work was published in the 1950s in the **Black Mountain Review**. She moved away from the fixed forms of English practice, developing an open, experimental style. With the publication of her first American book, **Here and Now** (1956), she became an important voice in the American avant-garde.” Her proper British upbringing and English form gave way to the groundbreaking ‘*organic form*’ – and although she was associated with the beat generation movement of the time, she favored a leaner more rigorous style. She won immediate recognition from peers like Creeley and Duncan, and from earlier generation avant garde poets such as **Kenneth Rexroth** and **William Carlos Williams**. Her collection of letters (1951-60) with Williams is most enlightening.



Her book, **With Eyes at the Back of our Heads** (1959), established Levertov as one of the great American poets. In the 1960's of the Vietnam War, activism and feminism became prominent, especially in the of rage and sadness of her work **The Sorrow Dance** (1967). Levertov went on to publish more than twenty volumes of poetry, including **Freeing the Dust** (1975), which won the **Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize**. She was also the author of four books of prose. From 1982 to 1993, she taught at Stanford University. She spent the last decade of her life in Seattle, Washington, during which time she published five more books of poetry. In December 1997, Denise Levertov died from complications of lymphoma. She was seventy-four. **This Great Unknowing: Last Poems** was published in 1999.

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CD Release Concert September 14, 2006

5:00 to 7:00 pm

Earshot's Art of Jazz Series

Seattle Asian Art Museum

presented by the Seattle Art Museum and Earshot Jazz
Carolyn Graye Ensemble performs pieces from her new CD



1400 East Prospect Street
Volunteer Park, Seattle, WA 98112
206.654.3100
www.earshot.org
www.seattleartmuseum.org

CD info:
www.ponyboyrecords.com

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