

**Judit Pixner Quartett**  
**Kein Weg Zu Weit**  
**Nagel Heyer 2082**

Judit Pixner-voc / Michel Giro-pno / Fabrizio Larentis-b / Roman Hinteregger-d / Pedro Tagliani-gtr. Rec München, July 2007, Oct 2008.

An meiner Seite / Du fehlst mir / Das Gelbe vom Ei / Ohne dich / Deine Nähe / Kein Weg zu weit / Als es began / Ich lieb dich so sehr / Nie mehr zurück / Männer sind anders / Angela. TT 53.40



Hallo! You know how you're always telling me that jazz is a universal language? OK, here's the proof, an album of a singer *auf Deutsch* with a cooking trio. The singer's pleasingly supple, the drummer is musical, the bassist swell for those sliding swells, and the pianist is tastefully space conscious. Judit didn't come from out of

nowhere (South Tyrol, actually), as she's recorded with The Other, a spirituals-to-swing vocal quartet, but, trust me, she's better off on her own and not singing stuff in English that we've heard too much already.

This material, all originals by Pixner and/or Michele Giro, is dramatic, a bit modal, a bit melodic, but always pleasing. I could have done with more up-tempo tunes however, you can show the

band to the stage but you cannot presume to conduct them. And though I'm mono-lingual, the words do seem needy for all that space. The tracks that swing, *Das Gelbe vom Ei*, *Kein Weg zu weit*, the bossa nova-winner *Ich lieb dich so sehr*, and *Männer sind anders* contrast greatly with the slower numbers. Some of the low-gear tunes are kinda cabernet, so you'd best wait 'till the bar opens.

The drummer has some of the finest brush work you'll hear, is like a tap dancer on those rims, and is all over the kit in the more conventional way too. Shame the engineer didn't care for cymbals the way I do, so you'd need real EQ, boosting from about 12KHz to correct this.

And of course accuracy is central to Judit Pixner. Some singers need a wide vibrato to find the centre of the note, but pitch obviously comes easy to her so any trilling is employed as part of phrasing, I suspect, for lyrical emphasis. Without laying it on too thick, the sentiments seem to be spontaneous. My endearment for this CD certainly was.