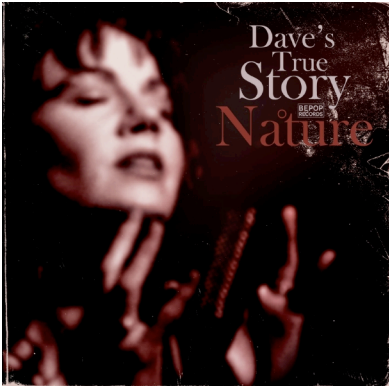


All Music Review!



Nature • Dave's True Story
by Hal Horowitz

This trio further crystallizes its cocktail jazz meets deceptively biting lyrics formula on its fourth album **Nature**, the first **Dave's True Story** release in three years. The initial impression is that this sounds too much like elevator or dentist office music for anyone's good, yet the songs grab your ears after a few spins, helped enormously by producer Jeff Eyrich's tasteful mood and arrangements that add heft to the basic trio's stripped down sound. Percussion, sax, vibes, organ and even accordion are all utilized at various times to flesh out these tunes, making them throb with a full yet cushy glow. Vocalist Kelly Flint remains the focus with a Peggy Lee/k.d. lang-styled voice that makes these songs soar. There are echoes of Norah Jones and Sade, but this is jazzier than either and aims for a more shadowy fringe. The dichotomy of the gentle, easy listening melodies and David Cantor's edgy, often dark concepts is a brilliant stroke. It makes this music perfect for the lounge crowd, chatting while twirling their swizzle sticks, or for serious listening with the lyric sheet in hand. The richness of the sound of "A Dog's Life" nearly obscures ominous lines such as "No ounce of prevention will kill you like the cure, this dog's life is hard to endure," sung by Flint in an upbeat, burnished yet dreamy style. The musical/lyrical contradiction and floating melodies with subtle hooks produces wonderfully sharp and unique jazz. **Nature** shows **Dave's True Story** to be crafty innovators in a genre where there aren't many other musicians pushing the envelope.