

Songbook

voice & lyrics **georgia mancio**
piano & music **alan broadbent**
double bass **oli hayhurst**
drums **dave ohm**



“Songbook is pure perfection”

JazzWax (US)

“one of the most formidable songwriting partnerships of the 21st century”

Jazz Views (UK)

“If we awarded stars to albums this one would rate a whole galaxy”

Bebop Spoken Here (UK)

“a magnificent example of strength and talent... one of the best performances I’ve seen this year....10 out of 10!”

Jazz in Europe

“destined to remain forever embedded in the Jazz songbook lexicon”

JazzLocal32 (NZ)

“This incredible music with these amazing lyrics are not to be missed. Not many people out there, if at all collaborating like Alan and Georgia”

Sheila Jordan

Songbook

Biography

Songbook is the exquisite collaboration between double Grammy-winning jazz pianist/composer/arranger Alan Broadbent and award-winning vocalist/lyricist Georgia Mancio. Their initial duo performances blossomed into a fully arranged quartet and “*one of the most formidable songwriting partnerships of the 21st century*” (JazzViews). In 2017 they released *Songbook* - their first collection of originals with a sold-out headline show at world-renowned Ronnie Scott’s Jazz Club and subsequent performances across Europe and an US tour in summer 2018.

Alan Broadbent is recognised as one of the world’s leading jazz artists with credits as impressively far-ranging as Diana Krall, Natalie Cole, Woody Herman, Johnny Mandel, Paul McCartney and iconically Irene Kral and Charlie Haden’s Quartet West.

Georgia Mancio has proved herself one of the UK’s most original, adventurous and multi-faceted new artists, with work including Bobby McFerrin, Ian Shaw, Sheila Jordan, Gwilym Simcock, Liane Carroll, Bobby Wellins, Darius Brubeck and her own international voice festival - *ReVoice!*

Alan and Georgia began performing together in 2013 and co-writing the following year. After discovering a mutual appreciation of Great American Songbook writers Harry Warren, George Gershwin and Rodgers and Hart, Alan invited Georgia to write a lyric for ‘The Long Goodbye’ - an evocative piece originally conceived for Charlie Haden’s Quartet West. It coincided with Georgia’s final visit to her late father’s house and became ‘The Last Goodbye’ - a subtly emotional story of loss and coming of age. One song organically led to another and in a prolific 9 month period they reimagined some of Alan’s earlier recorded work (‘Just Like A Child’, ‘The Journey Home’, ‘One For Bud’); brand new creations (‘Hide Me From The Moonlight’, ‘Lullaby For MM’) and even a piece composed by Alan at just 17 years old (‘Where The Soft Winds Blow’).

Songbook was recorded in 2015/16 and arranged for the quartet with British bassist **Oli Hayhurst** (Pharoah Sanders, Julian Siegel, Ray Gelato) and drummer **Dave Ohm** (Gregory Porter, Ian Shaw, Claire Martin). The album was released in April 2017, marking Alan’s 70th birthday and the first time his music has been heard entirely with words. In the past he has collaborated with esteemed lyricist Dave Frishberg and vocalist Mark Murphy. Georgia’s lyrics have previously been approved by Pat Metheny, Osvaldo Farrés’ estate and British composers Kate Williams and Tim Laphorn and this is her first full collection of original writings.

Songbook is a haunting, hip and harmonious collection of stories within stories. Alan’s sophisticated melodies and peerless arranger’s ear find their perfect match in Georgia’s superbly crafted lyrics of both beauty and bite. Through journeys and resting places, childhood and old age; from bebop to brooding ballads and bossa novas: The Georgia Mancio / Alan Broadbent *Songbook* continues the lineage of the great jazz writing partnerships but thematically and musically looks to setting the new standards of the future.

The quartet have toured annually since 2015 with engagements including: Ronnie Scott’s, Gateshead International Jazz Festival, Pizza Express Jazz Club, Norwich Jazz Weekender, Scarborough Jazz Festival, Hightide Festival, Watermill Jazz, The Stables, Bonington Theatre, The Apex (UK); Eden Riverside, Birdland, Kiel Kulturforum (Germany); Krakow Jazz Festival, NOSPR, Katowice (Poland); Rochester Jazz Festival, Kitano, Dizzy’s, JALC, Mezzrow and Side Door (US).

[Songbook Web Page](#)

[Listen to Songbook album clips](#)

[Watch on Youtube](#) (Georgia & Alan)

www.georgiamancio.com

www.alanbroadbent.com

Songbook

Album Reviews

** Reviews not linked are attached below*

UK

"one of the most formidable songwriting partnerships of the 21st century"

Jazz Views (UK)

"rare to find a songwriting and performing partnership so well matched"

The Observer (UK) 4****

"Those moments when, no matter how much of a lifetime's river of music has passed under the bridge, the eyes involuntarily well up and an electrical impulse charges down the spine... they can only be the sign of something artistically and emotionally significant."

AP Reviews (UK)

"a heartfelt Songbook worthy of the title...so special"

Kind of Jazz (UK) 4****

"glows with the kind of craft, style and elegance that was routine in the Golden Age of Song but is a rare delight today...with flavours, variously, of Jobim, Frischberg, Mandel et al....triumphant"

*** MOJO (UK) 4**** CD of the Month**

"If we awarded stars to albums this one would rate a whole galaxy"

Bebop Spoken Here (UK)

"For a contemporary vocal jazz album to contain an original song that could reasonably be compared to the great standards of the past is a rare thing. For a contemporary vocal jazz album to present an entire set of originals which merit the comparison is rarer still. The latter is certainly the case with Songbook...An album of outstanding beauty and power"

*** Jazzwise (UK) 4**** Recommended**

"superb life-drawn lyrics [sung] with clarity and feeling"

Sandy Brown Jazz (UK)

"a highly sophisticated and classy piece of work. The combination of Broadbent's glorious melodies and Mancio's intelligent and evocative lyrics works particularly well and the musical performances from all four protagonists are excellent throughout"

The Jazz Mann (UK)

"These are sophisticated well-crafted songs, and the musicianship is outstanding"

LondonJazz (UK)

"they've wowed audiences...with their whip smart quartet and original tunes that tell stories and sound like classics...lovely album"

*** Evening Standard *(UK) 4*****

"an exciting and sophisticated new partnership...superb"

All About Jazz (UK/US) 4.5****

Songbook

International

"in the case of these tender Broadbent-Mancio songs and Mancio's delicious vocal delivery - Songbook is pure perfection"

JazzWax (US)

"It's refreshing to hear new material that sounds both modern and timeless"

Jazz Weekly (US)

"Pianist and composer Alan Broadbent has found his lyricist. Further good news...Georgia Mancio sings her words to Broadbent's songs with taste, feeling and faultless intonation"

Rifftides (US)

"The velvety voice and clear articulation of Mancio perfectly match the melodic playing of Broadbent, creating twelve highly intense songs of timeless elegance"

* **Jazz Podium (Germany)**

"impossible not to be seduced"

Jazzeseruido (Spain)

"[Broadbent] is a an entrancing pianist...[and] ingenious composer...[Mancio] has a lovely tone with perfect intonation ... [and] has produced first-class work with the lyrics"

* **Concerto (Austria)**

"a superb album and destined to remain forever embedded in the Jazz songbook lexicon...This pairing of voice and harmony, lyrics and melody could hardly be improved upon"

JazzLocal32 (NZ)



Songbook

Released 23 April 2017
Roomspin Records 1923

[Amazon UK](#) [CD Baby](#)
www.georgiamancio.com

roomspin
RECORDS

Songbook

Live Reviews

“unequivocally, one of the gigs of the year.... “Heartfelt, intimate and engaging, this was one of those memorable nights where the music-making was completely transporting. Every lover of song will want to add Mancio and Broadbent’s tour de force to their collection”

Jazzwise (UK) - Ronnie Scott’s 2017

“What an amazing, vibrant and completely sold out Ronnie Scott’s....A wonderful night of jazz for grown-ups ... which ended with that kind of applause that made you feel that you had been in on something special”

LondonJazz (UK) - Ronnie Scott’s 2017

“a magnificent example of strength and talent... one of the best performances I’ve seen this year.... 10 out of 10!”

Jazz in Europe - Ronnie Scott’s 2017

“this was Rodgers and Hart, George and Ira, Berlin, Porter, Jerome Kern and Dorothy Fields born again in a different century. It didn’t, it couldn’t, get any better than this...”

Bebop Spoken Here (UK) - Gateshead International Jazz Festival 2017

“The material had an elegiac quality...If you love the golden age of the American Songbook, you’ll appreciate the achievement of this partnership in extending it.”

Jazz Journal (UK) - Gateshead International Jazz Festival 2017

“It is almost like hubris, when Alan Broadbent & Georgia Mancio also call their album “Songbook”. In the KulturForum .. it became clear that the pianist and singer indeed set new standards.”

Kieler Nachrichten (Germany) - Kiel Kulturforum 2017

“Songbook...is not reminiscent of the “Great American Songbook” – the famous collection of jazz standards. Because here new standards are set”

Hansen Munk (Germany) - Kiel Kulturforum 2017

“The songs, with their fresh, and wonderfully clearly delivered Mancio lyrics, have charm and character, and are always reminiscent of, yet different from, other points from the canon”

LondonJazz (UK) - Pizza Express Jazz Club 2016

“a new songbook, beautifully delivered: that’s surely worth waiting 50 years for”

The Arts Desk (UK) - Watermill Jazz Club 2015

“These were songs of real beauty and sophistication, that surely deserve to join the Standards repertoire – arranged, played and sung with great passion and skill”

London Jazz News (UK) - Pizza Express Jazz Club 2015

“incredibly well received by the audience....these new songs definitely deserve to be heard”

London Jazz News (UK) - Pizza Express Jazz Club 2014

“Mancio’s velvet tone and sensitive lyricism are as beautiful as ever, but with Broadbent, whose scintillating accompanying piano reveals new details in even the best-loved song, they’re unmissable.”

Culture Whisper (UK) - London Jazz Festival 2013, nominated Best of 2013 Jazz Gigs

Songbook

Features

Radio Interviews

[2017 Ronnie Scott's International Radio Show interview with Georgia Mancio and Alan Broadbent \(UK/US/Canada\)](#)

[2017 LondonJazz Podcast with Georgia Mancio \(UK\)](#)

[2016 In Tune, BBC Radio 3 Live session and interview \(UK\) **listen again no longer available*](#)

[2014 Jazz FM interview with Alan Broadbent and Georgia Mancio \(UK\)](#)

Press Interviews

[2017 JazzWax interview with Georgia Mancio \(US\)](#)

[2017 Jazz in Europe interview with Georgia Mancio \(Europe\)](#)

[2017 Jazzwise interview with Alan Broadbent and Georgia Mancio \(UK\) ** attached below*](#)

[2015 LondonJazz interview with Georgia Mancio \(UK\)](#)

[2015 LondonJazz interview with Alan Broadbent \(UK\)](#)

Previews

[2016 LondonJazz preview \(UK\)](#)

[2015 Jazz Breakfast preview \(UK\)](#)

[2015 Jazzwise preview \(UK\)](#)

[2015 Jazz FM preview \(UK\)](#)

Songbook

Jazzwise April 2017



“When I feel something it comes out in notes. If I can tap into that, then I know that there’s something beyond me that I feel is worth something”
Alan Broadbent

Songbook

Tales Of The Heart

A finely-poised collaboration between Grammy-winning former Quartet West pianist, composer and arranger *Alan Broadbent* and singer, lyricist and curator *Georgia Mancio* has resulted in the release of the exquisite vocal collection, *Songbook*. Peter Quinn spoke to this simpatico pairing about their creative partnership

For a contemporary vocal jazz album to contain an original song that could reasonably be compared to the great standards of the past is a rare thing. For a contemporary vocal jazz album to present an entire set of originals which merit the comparison is rarer still. The latter is certainly the case with *Songbook*, the new album of originals by Grammy-winning pianist, composer and arranger Alan Broadbent and acclaimed vocalist, lyricist and ReVoice! curator, Georgia Mancio.

Chatting to the duo over drinks in the Hansom Lounge of the St Pancras Renaissance Hotel, Broadbent provides me with an insight into their collaborative process. "What I have is a set thing, it's very well thought out as a composer. I'm not Mahler, by any means, but I know that you can't change one note in my tune."

So it represents a whole thought? "Yes. And I know that, compositionally, it's like a jigsaw puzzle that's been put together as a beginning to an end. I prefer to present that to Georgia and give her the same freedom, while being locked in to the rhythm of the melody. To me, that's the best way. As far as I know, the best songs from the best songwriters have been done that way. It's obvious to me that with Rodgers and Hart, Rodgers wrote the song, and Hart the lyrics. But when you consider Oscar Hammerstein and Rodgers, Rodgers wrote the music to the words. It has a completely different character."

As heard on Quartet West's 1992 album *Haunted Heart*, or on his own 1997 trio album *Personal Standards*, Broadbent's 'The Long Goodbye', the first song the duo worked on together, possesses a kind of exquisite melancholy in its purely instrumental form. Heard in its new song guise as 'The Last Goodbye', Mancio's lyrics simultaneously manage to tell the most poignant story while fitting the tune's introspective mood perfectly. In order to suit Mancio's range, the song also underwent a key change.

"It changes the register of the harmonies," Broadbent notes. "When I'm composing I hear in a key. I'm always aware that most singers of standards are invariably contraltos, and even lower. Diana [Krall] is low, and Cassandra Wilson is really low. But I have to take the initial inspiration for the key that I hear it in. Sometimes I'm disappointed in the 'other' key, but once I hear it all together with the rhythm section and the *tessitura* of the voice, it makes sense."

Think of the great songwriting partnerships such as Rodgers and Hart and the Gershwins. There's brilliant craftsmanship at play, certainly, but there's also something slightly more intangible: an

alchemical reaction, you could call it. Hearing the Mancio/Broadbent *Songbook*, both qualities are immediately apparent. A complete consanguinity of mind in terms of the tradition is another important touchstone.

"As soon as I heard where Georgia was coming from, and the tradition in terms of songwriting and her appreciation of standards, it was basically the same as mine," Broadbent says. "And it stretches over generations. I read somewhere when I was young: hold on to what you have. You'll hurt, but within the long run, inside, you'll feel successful and like you're expressing something. I have friends who learnt to play like Richard Tee, because they had to, because they were making \$300 an hour. And they learned all the synthesisers and all that stuff, and I grew up with that in the studios in LA. There are other people that just eat it up, and I envy them so much, but it began to leave me behind because – whatever it is, that inner morality – something shuts me down. And I have no control over it. I'm waiting for that little idea that might produce a song that Georgia can write lyrics to."

An artist who has worked with everyone from Woody Herman and Natalie Cole to Diana Krall and Paul McCartney, Broadbent is one of the great jazz pianists, praised by his fellow Quartet West bandmate, the late Charlie Haden, as "one of the most original improvisers of jazz". Hearing Broadbent play, you're immediately aware that you're in the presence of a consummate storyteller. "In my own simple way, when I feel something it comes out in notes," Broadbent tells me. "I feel in notes. If I can tap into that, then I know that there's something beyond me that I feel is worth something. That's what I work on fastidiously."

Was he surprised by any of the lyrical ideas that Mancio came back with? Was there anything that gave him a sudden jolt?

"Yes, every tune!" he laughs. "That's lovely, because it's very hard if you've lived with something for so long," Mancio adds.

In songs such as 'Hide Me From The Moonlight', there's something profoundly moving about the way in which Broadbent's piano accompaniment starts off so starkly and simply and then builds into an almost hyper-romantic outpouring of emotion, enveloping Mancio's endlessly sustained melodic line. "When we recorded that song Alan was absolutely overwhelmed," Mancio recalls. "He really put his heart and soul into it. We went to do a second take and we couldn't do it because it was just so in the moment." There's also a yearning quality to the song, a sensuousness about the textures which takes it

a considerable distance from the Great American Songbook. "That's just being old, Peter," Broadbent quips. "I've been away from New Zealand too long. One of my favourites, which I never thought would see the light of day, is 'Close to the Moon'. I loved it so much. After I wrote this particular tune, I sent it to Michael Feinstein, who's an old friend. And Michael wrote me back a quick note: 'Sounds like something from out of the 1920s'. And that's when I said to myself, well, alright, we'll give it another composer's name and it'll be great. The thing is, when we play it, it's not in a time any more." Listening back to the song, you have to agree: this music is timeless. "I'm hoping that other young singers will feel moved and want to invest their own feelings into one of these songs," Broadbent says.

I can't imagine any singer, young or old, failing to be moved by these songs. Broadbent penned the earliest song in the collection, the bossa nova, 'Where The Soft Winds Blow', at the tender age of 17. With Mancio's beautiful lyrics, it's been given an entirely new lease of life. "I'm looking back 52 years to that," Broadbent says. "And remember that I had to withstand all the changes in jazz – jazz fusion, jazz rock, jazz this – plus the wonderful Beatles, through the Rolling Stones, through the 1980s and 1990s, rap, right until now. So, that's still the same guy, and they're still the same feelings. That's the thing I was talking about, the thing that sustained me for all those years and gave me an anchor."

There are, of course, two other musicians who played a huge part in bringing *Songbook* to fruition: bassist Oli Hayhurst and drummer Dave Ohm. Broadbent is effusive in his praise of his collaborators. "Oh, it's been first class," he tells me. "What they have is the feeling that I need: a jazz pulse. If that's not there for me, then it's just a job, it's not about the group. It's something that communicates a deeper feeling and it's the thing that no other music has. It generates a forward motion that has its own energy and beauty – what Lennie Tristano, my teacher, called 'life force'. This energy that jazz creates, in its purest form – from Louis Armstrong to Sonny Rollins to Miles – when they're playing like that it has this energy, a very deep, human thing, dancing in the mind. For us, the notes come from the rhythm, we're looking for that bond which, in turn, deepens the whole experience – of lyrics, of everything. This is not about Georgia, it's not about me, it's about this collective feeling we have together." ■

The Alan Broadbent & Georgia Mancio Songbook Quartet appear at Sage, Gateshead on 2 April and Ronnie Scott's, London on 3 April

Songbook



JAZZ

BY CHRIS INGHAM



Georgia Mancio/ Alan Broadbent

★★★★

Songbook

ROOMSPAN CD



Triumphant collaboration between
American Grammy-winning pianist and Anglo-Italian singer.

THIS COLLECTION of 12 Alan Broadbent/Georgia Mancio compositions glows with the kind of craft, style and elegance that was routine in the Golden Age of Song but is a rare delight today. Broadbent's graceful music is both unpredictable and entirely memorable while Mancio's heartfelt lyrics balance pithy, simple-profound sentiment with a discreet dexterity. Songs like the samba *Someone's Sun* and a neatly resolved *The Journey Home* (with flavours, variously, of Jobim, Frishberg, Mandel, et al) reveal a music/words team who know their past masters without being in thrall to them. This easy-swinging commitment to old school qualities exudes a timelessness rather than any self-conscious retroness, an achievement enhanced by Broadbent's measured, cultured pianistics and Mancio's serene, warm vocals.

Songbook

THE UK'S BIGGEST SELLING JAZZ MAGAZINE

ISSUE 217 APRIL 2017 £5.50

Georgia Mancio/Alan Broadbent

Songbook

Roomspin Records ★★★★★

Recommended

Georgia Mancio (v), Alan Broadbent (p), Oli Hayhurst (b) and Dave Ohm (d, perc). Rec. 2015-2016

From the incredibly touching album opener 'The Journey Home' to the hauntingly beautiful 'Lullaby for MM' with which it signs off, this collaboration between vocalist and lyricist Georgia Mancio and pianist, composer and arranger Alan Broadbent presents a collection of 12 outstanding, sublimely subtle songs. Broadbent's pianism is dazzling throughout, drawing at will from the lexicon of jazz, but also nodding to some of his classical music proclivities, including a brief reference to the final movement of Rachmaninov's 'Piano Concerto No.2' at the end of 'Close To The Moon'. With themes ranging from childhood to old age, with all points in between, Mancio's lyrics consistently hit the emotional and aesthetic bull's eye. Other highlights include 'Forever', a jazz waltz which singlehandedly exorcises the ghosts of Gene Lees' cheesy lyrics to 'Waltz for Debby', the unusually chromatic melodic line of 'Cherry Tree', with Broadbent's solo conjuring up cascades of notes which fall like petals, the increasingly impassioned, almost Ravelian sensuousness of 'Hide Me from the Moonlight', and the virtuosic vocalese of 'One For Bud'. An album of outstanding beauty and power, repeated hearings of *Songbook* only serve to increase your admiration. **Peter Quinn**

**SPECIAL
20th
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE**

Songbook

London Evening Standard

Friday 31 March 2017

Jazz

**GEORGIA
MANCIO &
ALAN
BROADBENT**
Songbook

(Roomspin
Records)

★★★★☆



IT'S been a good four years since acclaimed vocalist/lyricist Georgia Mancio and Grammy-winning pianist, composer and arranger Alan Broadbent, decided to pool creative resources, spurred by a mutual love of the Great American Songbook - in that time they've wowed live venues across the UK with their whip-smart quartet and original tunes that tell stories and sound like classics.

This lovely album showcases the chemistry of said musical partners, with Mancio singing of love, life and loss in a voice full of light and shade, and 70-year-old Broadbent offering sensitive accompaniment through early works such as *Just Like a Child*, to new compositions including the gorgeous *Lullaby for MM*. Respected double bassist Oli Hayhurst and drummer Dave Ohm join them on this album, and at Ronnie Scott's on Monday.

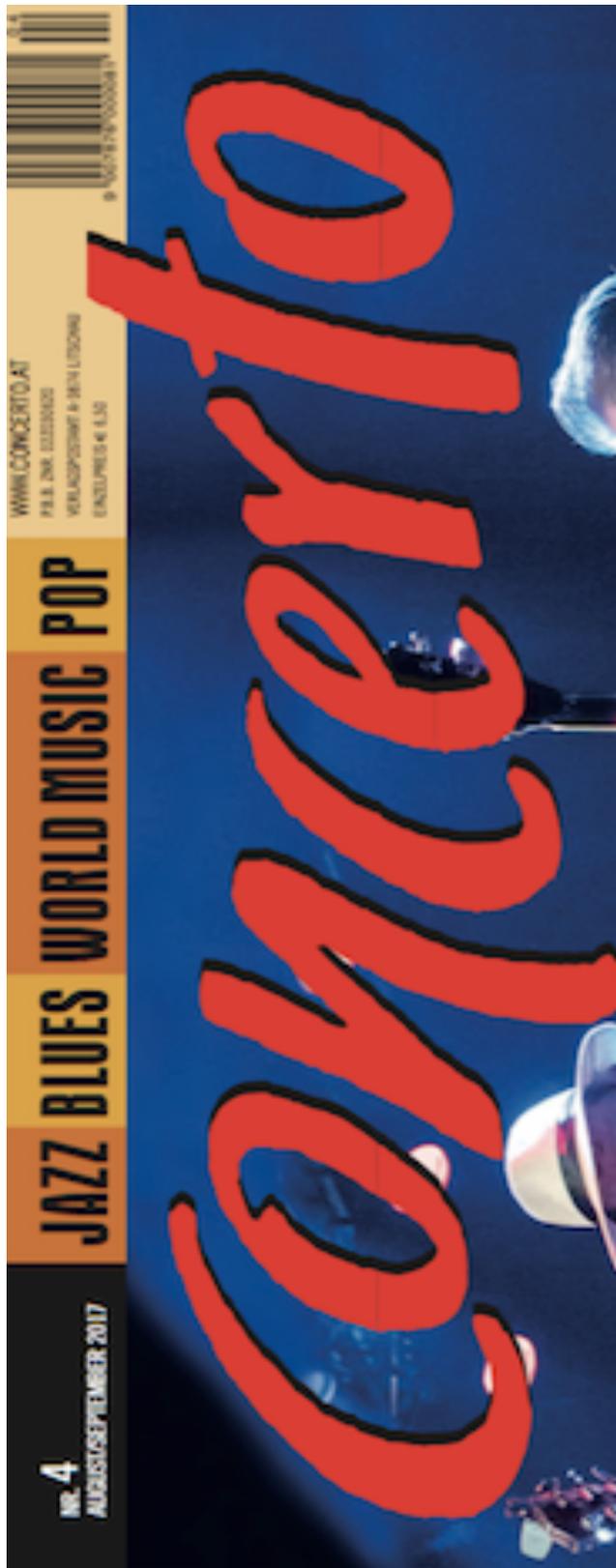
Jane Cornwell

Songbook



Wie Aufnahmen aus dem amerikanischen Songbook klingen beim ersten Hinhören die Stücke auf dem Album „**Songbook**“ (Roomspin Records 1923). Dabei hat die preisgekrönte englische Sängerin **Georgia Mancio** die lyrisch-balladesken Texte alle selbst geschrieben, die dazu passende Musik stammt aus der Feder des genialen Pianisten **Alan Broadbent**, der mit seinem Trio begleitet. Die samtige Stimme und die klare Artikulation von Mancio passen perfekt zum melodisch sensiblen Spiel von Broadbent und so sind hier zwölf Musikminiaturen von hoher Intensität und zeitloser Eleganz entstanden.

Songbook



Georgia Mancio & Alan Broadbent Songbook



Roomspin Records

Der Pianist Alan Broadbent ist einer jener Musiker, die so viele tolle Sachen gemacht haben und doch immer noch so wenig bekannt sind. Dass er ein hinreißender und swingender Pianist ist, wissen die meisten, dass er aber auch ein einfallsreicher Komponist ist, wohl eher wenige. Und um diese Kompositionen geht es auf diesem Album. Die 45-jährige britische Sängerin Georgia Mancio hat Lyrics zu den Songs von Broadbent geschrieben und interpretiert diese auch. Sie verfügt über eine angenehme Stimme mit schönem Timbre und einer erstklassigen Intonation. (Und liest man in ihrer Bio nach, erfährt man, dass sie beim London Jazz Festival mit Bobby McFerrin auftrat und 2006 mit Sheila Jordan tourte). Auch als Lyricist hat sie erstklassige Arbeit geleistet. Das Album, das 2015/16 aufgenommen wurde, erschien genau zu Broadbents 70. Geburtstag im Frühsommer 2017. **woolf**



Songbook



illustrations [simon manfield](#)



For more information on Songbook contact:
georgiamancio@hotmail.com office@janmatthies.com