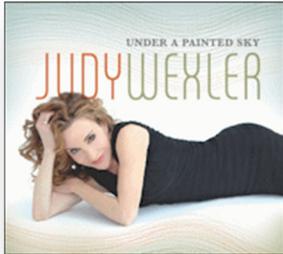


# Reviews

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## *UNDER A PAINTED SKY*

### **JazzTimes**

“Wexler emerges as one of the most focused, unpretentious, no-nonsense, bop-oriented jazz singers around. She boasts range, firm intonation and the kind of enunciation that makes her the darling of lyricists.”

--- Harvey Siders

### **Jazzreview.com**

“Judy Wexler looms large in the relatively small world of jazz vocalists, and this recording, *Under a Painted Sky*, will certainly attest to that. I have never heard Judy Wexler in finer form. There is a paucity of genuine jazz singers, and this vocalist is to be included as a rising star in this limited group. This recording should be in the true Jazzophiles collection, it gets no better!”

--- John Gilbert

### **F.A.M.E. -- Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange**

“Judy Wexler sings in a cool refreshing voice, kind of a blend of Karen Carpenter, Toni Tenille, Doris Day, and then the boss nova chanteuses. Wexler covers a zone not precisely hit by much of anyone any more, a sphere you didn't know you missed until you hear her. So do yourself a favor and find out how many O's can fit into 'smoooooooooth' in this perfect disc of unutterably romantic songs.”

--- Mark S. Tucker

### **The JazzPage - Raves**

“Singer Judy Wexler and her mesmerizing voice take on the tunes by some great composers on her latest recording. Another fantastic outing for Wexler that is worth hearing.”

--- Glenn Daniels

### **MIDWEST RECORD** by Chris Spector

April 29, 2011

“JUDY WEXLER/Under a Painted Sky: Wexler continues to affirm she's a right on nu jazz vocalist as she adds her own special sauce to chestnuts and continues to seek out tunes from offbeat sources that she has the instincts to make her own. Whether covering Johnny Mathis or Egberto Gismonti, Wexler is a most charming tour guide and gracious hostess. A top shelf recording throughout.”



## *DREAMS & SHADOWS*

### **NPR Weekend Edition**

"Based on the evidence of her new second album, *Dreams & Shadows*, Judy Wexler can sing almost anything."

--- Susan Stamberg

### **All Music Guide (4.5 Stars)**

"Rare is the jazz vocal CD that makes one stand up and take notice on the first hearing. But Judy Wexler achieves that reaction with her brilliant *Dreams & Shadows*, in part due to her instinctive ability to bring out the best in each song, often taking it into unfamiliar territory... Judy Wexler deserves widespread recognition for her outstanding CD."

--- Ken Dryden

### **JazzTimes**

"So refreshingly good, so fundamentally gifted is Judy Wexler... now, with this exalted follow-up to 2005's superb *Easy on the Heart*, Wexler proves she's ready to join the top rank of female jazz vocalists.

--- Christopher Loudon

### **EJazzNews (5 Stars)**

"Since 1999, Judy Wexler has wowed local L.A. audiences with her pitch-perfect vocals sung as jazz should be sung with soul, style, clear articulation and the ability to swing with the best of them... Bebop is alive and well under the tutelage of Judy Wexler as she parlays "Pent Up House" into a soon to be classic. This singer has all the necessary ingredients and a sense of time that is remarkable. I remember Judy Wexler from her early years as a very hip singer with all the inherent tools to be a force in the jazz genre...and it's no surprise that she has emerged as just that, a star among stars."

--- John Gilbert

### **Soundstage!**

"Judy Wexler pulls you into her music with a combination of wit, style and knowingness that must make a lyricist very pleased that she's chosen to interpret his or her words. On top of that, her playful way with a tune and the wonderful fluidity of her voice would make any melodist smile. With her sharp jazz instincts and formidable vocal skills, she knows exactly where to stretch or alter time and when to veer slightly from the melody... Some buzz seems to be building around Wexler and, for once, it's deserved."

--- Joseph Taylor

### **Jersey Jazz**

Wexler has a distinctive, voice full of shadings, and simply knows how to dig into a song and find its essence. Speaking of songs, Wexler has chosen an interesting and eclectic program... This is an impressive collection by a singer who is sure to attract lots of attention with quality efforts like this."

--- Joe Lang

### **Primetime A&E**

*Dreams & Shadows* is Wexler's baby all the way, one that can claim turf on the small landscape of genuinely great modern jazz vocalist recordings... This CD puts Wexler solidly among the ranks of the really good singers like Kate McGarry and Tierney Sutton. On *Dreams & Shadows* she sounds exceedingly relaxed and comfortable throughout, and exhibits just enough fearlessness, daring and control that everything here just clicks."

--- Nick Bewsey (New Hope, PA)

### **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review**

"Judy Wexler shows on *Dreams & Shadows* she has a voice as versatile as her recognition of song is broad... This album thrives in understated energy."

--- Bob Karlovits

### **Jazz Improv Magazine**

Judy Wexler is a great singer and *Dreams & Shadows* is a great CD.

---Dave Miele

### **California Tour & Travel**

...(Wexler) achieves the perfect balance of singer and musicians. Her tonality and delivery are impeccable, especially considering the choice of songs. Often jazz vocalists rely on well-known and worn material that is easy to mold. Wexler differs, instead showing with ingenious arrangements and some of Los Angeles's greatest players, an uncanny ability to create outstanding jazz."

---Chris Walker

### **Jazz Society of Oregon**

"Who was it that once said 'You'll know it when you hear it?' Well, there are those who would strive to be called jazz singers and others who actually may claim the title. Judy Wexler fits in the latter category. And you'll know it when you hear it. Among those qualities which provide the answer: intonation, telling the story of the lyric, phrasing, choice of material, knowing how much improvisation is perfect, hiring hip accompanists, and more. And Judy Wexler is the complete package... she's the real deal ... a jazz singer!"

--- George Fendel

### **Santa Barbara Independent**

Wexler is taking her rightful place in the ranks of strong jazz singers on the scene."

---Josef Woodard

### **Midwest Record**

"Here's a thrush that knows how to sing and swing like a throwback to the golden age of broads. Saucy, sexy with great tone and style, she's selling the steak and not just the sizzle. A jazz vocalist for this or any season, Wexler hits it on some intuitive, innate level that just makes you a fan right out of the box. Hot stuff throughout."

--- Chris Spector

### **All About Jazz New York**

Wexler is a breath of fresh air, a clear, clean voice that imbues life into every song she enters. Wexler has a wealth of gifts, which elegantly unfold over the course of *Dreams & Shadows*. Yet she never overplays her assets; she is always sensitive to what each song needs and this, combined with her sincere connection to the lyrics, makes Wexler an impressive talent."

--- Florence Wetzel

### **Washington Post**

West Coast jazz vocalist Judy Wexler not only knows her way around a bop tune, fluidly negotiating angular intervals and racing tempos, she knows how to personalize a pop tune, no matter how familiar or faded.

--- Mike Joyce

### **Detroit Free Press**

"West Coast jazz singer Judy Wexler has a lithe and limber voice, an improvisatory attitude and an ear for fresh reinventions of standards."

--- *Mark Stryker*

### **In Tune International**

"Judy stays right on top of her 13-song programme of what seems like tailor-made songs chosen just for her. Her distinctive jazz stylings are amazing throughout."

--- Dan Singer

### **Public Radio International -- Jim Wilke's *Jazz After Hours***

*Dreams & Shadows* -- Best of 2008 Vocal CDs!

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## *EASY ON THE HEART*

### **Germein Linares, *All About Jazz***

"Her assertive, no-frills delivery is a dominant and pleasant feature in her singing, as it focuses our attention on the clear and lucid storytelling. The extras in her style are subtle, delicate, well-timed, purposeful and a testament to her good taste...she clearly knows what liberties to take, what lines to stretch and, more importantly, how to enchant us fully."

### **Scott Yanow, *Jazziz*, June 2005**

*Easy on the Heart* has one memorable performance after another. Wexler interprets the diverse material with sensitivity and understated swing, sticking to the lyrics and putting plenty of feeling into the words. Her handling of the difficult lyrics of Meredith D'Ambrosio's "Gorgeous Creature" (which uses the chords of "Beautiful Love") is impressive, as is her ability to stretch herself to include the Beatles' "In My Life" and Bob Dylan's "Don't Think Twice, It's All Right."

### **Michael Gladstone, *All About Jazz***

"This is one special jazz vocal debut album from Los Angeles area-based Judy Wexler. This album stands miles ahead in the proliferating femme jazz vocal field. I can only hope that it will find its way to the in-baskets of the various jazz radio programmers, and fast!"

**Paul deBarros, *Seattle Times*, November 11, 2005**

After a phone interview with the fabulous new Los Angeles vocalist Judy Wexler, she sent me an e-mail of her five favorite jazz-vocal albums. Wexler had no idea I was going to print her list, but I thought it would give you a good idea just how hip she is: "Bittersweet," Carmen McRae; *Better Than Anything*, Irene Kral (with the Junior Mance Trio); *Annie Ross Sings a Song with Mulligan*; *Social Call*, Betty Carter; (Tossup) *Wholly Earth* or *You Gotta Pay the Band*, Abbey Lincoln. Wexler's "desert island discs" were no huge surprise, given her cool repertoire and dazzling technique on *Easy on the Heart*, her debut CD."

**Jim Santella, *L.A. Jazz Scene*, April 2005**

"With her debut CD, Judy Wexler finally unlocks the secret that she's been keeping hidden while performing for local audiences at venues around town. Her warm, expressive vocal interpretations give the session plenty to love. Wexler forges ahead into straight-ahead territory with her own personal stamp on each arrangement. The result is a lively session that's filled with the spirit of the blues and the swinging rhythms of jazz. But it's the singer's vocal clarity, driving passion, and down to earth interpretations that make her debut a sure winner. Wexler convinces with a natural aura and a musically superior ambience."

**Steven Rosenberg, *L.A. Daily News***

"Wexler doesn't play the debut-disc game of most jazz vocalists by packing the playlist with ringers. Instead, this subtly powerful Glendale singer offers a satisfyingly challenging program of lesser-known gems... Wexler also proves she can handle bebop (Meredith D'Ambrosio's "Gorgeous Creature") and deliver the blues (with an Oscar Brown Jr. cover, no less). The one constant: a spot-on, expressive voice."

**Alex Henderson, *All Music Guide***

"...she successfully brings her interpretive powers to everything from Bob Dylan's "Don't Think Twice, It's Alright," the Beatles' "In My Life" and Henry Mancini's "Moment to Moment" to Abbey Lincoln's "I'm in Love." Of course, having an interesting, far-reaching repertoire wouldn't mean much if Wexler couldn't sing—and thankfully, she has a big, appealing voice and a healthy sense of swing to go with her broad-minded song selection. Hard-swinging but with a definite romantic streak, Wexler is someone admirers of Abbey Lincoln or Dianne Reeves should have no problem getting into—and she's someone who shows a lot of promise on her memorable debut album."

**John Gilbert, *ejazznews.com***

"Judy Wexler has all the necessary ingredients a jazz singer requires and she uses them all in the hallmark of this recording, "Nobody Else But Me." With a rapid fire delivery, Wexler puts this tune in the cosmos, right up there where Hammerstein/Kern reside, and I am sure they are more than pleased...Judy Wexler has a voice made for jazz."

**Paula Edelstein, *Sounds of Timeless Jazz* ([www.soundsoftimelessjazz.com](http://www.soundsoftimelessjazz.com))**

"Jazz vocalist Judy Wexler sings an exceptional set on her latest release *Easy on the Heart*. Her interplay with her quintet showcases her deep sense of swing and rich harmonic skills in such a great way as to beautifully enhance her abilities as an entertainer. Wexler has a warm sound, excellent note-for-note phrasing, a winning sense of dynamics and a distinctive style of improvisation that helps to transcend the songs on the recording to another level of appreciation. Overall, Judy Wexler does a great job of exposing her inventive singing and ability to drive the band to both new and current fans."

**Mike Matheny, *RadioioJazz.com* (*Easy on the Heart* featured as Pick of the Week, 4/18-24/05)**

"A debut album this good? Put one of the warmest voices on the planet with Alan Pasqua on the piano and Darek Oles on bass... and the rest is what you would imagine. The voice belongs to Judy Wexler and the release is "Easy on the Heart" ... in the spotlight this week on RadioioJAZZ! The voice and character of the vocal reveals a depth of expressions. At times what you hear is warm and inviting... she can shift to gutsy and 'blues born'. And then there is the confident delivery on "Nobody Else But Me"... even further, there is another scope of expression on pop tunes such as the Beatles' "In My Life" or Dylan's "Don't Think Twice It's Alright." This album is successful because the talent is real."

**Karl Stober, *JazzReview.com* Interview**

"*Easy on the Heart* is a passionate debut project with several attitudes branching out to touch listeners, at times allowing her level of tone and vocal structure to expand to many degrees. In fact, her forte as a storyteller is noticeably prevalent. Ms. Wexler also shows great command and control of her performances, a sturdy and grounded foundation in her career with this initial project."

**MJ Territo, *Jazz Improv Magazine*, New York Supplement**

"Listening to Judy Wexler's *Easy on the Heart* is like being at a dinner party where you meet a lot of people you'd like to know better. Wexler is a gracious hostess -- warm and relaxed -- and the evening moves along smoothly, without pretensions or affectations. Some of the songs she serves up are familiar, but none are in any way overdone; others are downright surprising, but delicious nonetheless. "

**Peter Aaron, *Jazz Improv Magazine***

"Wexler's smooth voice is flawless."