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SCENE

Jazz Gumbo

Contemporary, Fusion, And World Beat Happenings

by *Chris J. Walker*

Often singers find themselves torn between the easy intimacy of cabaret, the excitement of show music and the cool swinging of jazz. Sometimes they just want to do a little of each of them or mix the genres in a number or two. Having an extremely talented and flexible group definitely makes it nearly effortless. That clearly was the case when **Linda Regan**, who hails from Northern California, teamed up with pianist **Lou Forestieri's** trio for a show at **Lunaria**. With Kenny Wilde on bass

and Jason Harnell playing drums, she launched into a sizzling Latin-tinged version of "Dance With Me."

Switching to cabaret, Regan sensually purred and aroused her audience by doing "All of Me" and also let her players stretch out some. They provided great support throughout the set, while the singer displayed impressive vitality and natural playfulness. She even ventured where few singers dare to go, by rendering "At Last," regarded as Etta James' signature piece, as a slow and gentle ballad. Included in that category was a lushly sang version "Spring can Really Hang You up."

However as mentioned earlier, this singer also likes a bit of Broadway and couldn't resist doing slightly campy "Minnie's Capers." Additionally, she showcased her pop original "AAHH." featuring a driving samba rhythm. Bottom-line: Regan is a musical free spirit, who has the courage to try and most importantly the talent to do whatever she chooses skillfully. To find out more about her go to: www.lindaregan.com.