

# Daryl Sherman at the Concorde Club - with Digby Fairweather

*The Concorde Club*

*Eastleigh, Hants, UK*

<http://www.theconcordeclub.com/>

**By Gordon Sapsed, March 18, 2010**



Jazz singer Daryl Sherman and bassist Len Skeat  
Photo: Gordon Sapsed

On this occasion Daryl had a three-man British accompanying group, Digby Fairweather on trumpet, guitarist Dominic Ashworth and 'The Time Lord', bassist Len Skeat.

This Concorde date was the midpoint of Daryl's dozen UK dates this year and the group were comfortable with the wide variety of songs and settings that Daryl had chosen for the evening.

Daryl, during all those years at New York's Waldorf-Astoria, had built an almost infinite repertoire of piano-accompanied songs and has also recorded more than 40 albums, most of which have bands and other instrumentalists, as well as her piano.

We heard a full range of alternative mixes that this accompanying group could offer - from duos with piano and bass to quartet arrangements, with and without vocals. Between numbers Daryl can draw on stories associated with every song - sometimes telling of the songwriter, other times of musicians linked to that song and every time from first hand experience.

'I must play this song, which Marian MacPartland wrote, because she'll ask me if I did it, when I get home' or 'Blossom Dearie wrote this and Johnny Mercer added the lyric, but I'll play a little more piano than Blossom would use' (and, incidentally add a new line or two that Mercer would smile about ...).

Since leaving that Waldorf-Astoria gig Daryl has revealed her versatility, calling on music from New Orleans to Ellington and on to Mancini, as well as, potentially, everybody listed in the Great American Songbook and beyond.

One surprise was a beautiful rendering, with just Dominic Ashworth's guitar accompaniment, of Antonio Carlos Jobim's 'How Insensitive', in the original Portuguese.

Another was a delightful wordless vocal on George Shearing's 'Lullaby of Birdland,' which incorporated the Concorde audience as a vocal choir. In the last few years Daryl has recorded a series of CDs, each very different from the other, with themes including 'Swing,' New Orleans and inevitably the great songsmiths like Richard Rodgers and Johnny Mercer. For this evening she drew on examples from many of those recordings, using the available musicians to reflect the differing accompaniments used in the recording studio.

Digby Fairweather played mostly using a variety of mutes, with occasional open trumpet contributions. Dominic Ashworth, like Digby, had extended solos and features during both hour-long sets and Len Skeat, as ever, played his consistent 'listening-bassist' role, with some outstanding solos that drew warm applause from the audience.

Daryl had done her homework for this UK tour and offered, as well as Shearing, songs such as 'A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square' and reminiscences about Noël Coward. (Did you know that the key role in *The King and I* was originally created with Coward in mind?).

Long forgotten songs like 'The New Low Down' or 'The Bathroom Ran Over Again' appeared alongside hits like 'Charade' and 'Jeepers Creepers'. Up-tempo songs such as 'The Jazz Band Ball' alternated with romantic wistful songs like 'Isn't it a Pity'.

An altogether delightful evening, which all those who attended will want to repeat again before too long and will recommend to their friends.

You can hear examples of Daryl Sherman performing on [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and find details of her life and available CDs on Daryl's website at [www.darylsherman.com](http://www.darylsherman.com).

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