

Welsman shows off fine voice, piano style

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Carol Welsman has a beautiful voice. She plays great piano. And she used both skills yesterday to please a sold-out crowd in the first of two concerts at the Berney Theatre.

From the opening solo lullaby, Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, through two hours of great jazz with trio mates Kieran Overs on bass and Kevin Dempsey on drums, Welsman proved what an asset she is to the worlds of jazz and popular music.

Somewhere Beyond the Sea, sung in English and French with just Overs' bass accompanying her piano, was an early treat in the show, part of the **Asper Foundation Jazz Performances** series.

The full trio performed the Gershwin classic I Got Rhythm with a funkified rhythm that suggested the composer may have frequented the streets of New Orleans rather than New York.

Welsman's gorgeous vocals really came to the fore on a couple of disparate tunes, Sting's Every Breath You Take and Honeysuckle Rose, a tribute to Lena Home. The latter helped highlight Welsman's piano playing and included a tasty bass solo by Overs.

Taking a Chance on Love was performed as a very funky number that put Dempsey in the spotlight with some tasteful soloing.

A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square, with Welsman alone on piano and vocals, was a true treat. The trio's version of Don't Get Around Much Anymore strayed quite a distance from the Ellington original, but it was a fun ride.

Welsman left the piano to sing Slow Boat to China accompanied only by Overs on bass, and anyone in the audience who knew the words to the chorus and would sing along.

The singer performed a couple of numbers in Portuguese, including the beautiful Antonio Carlos Jobim classic, The Girl from Ipanema. The tune is infectious in any language and certainly when sung by someone with as beautiful a voice as Welsman.

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