



*Dennis Day – Back in the Day*

The CD recording *Dennis Day – Back in the Day* is a musical smorgasbord, offering new twists on old-school themes that are as pleasing to the ear as they are inviting to one's toe-tapping impulse. But what is most appealing about Day's music is his original material and authentic singing style.

Laden with a jazz influence, Day's smooth vocal stylings command attention. Amsterdam News journalist and music critic for Downbeat Magazine, Herb Boyd, wrote in an article profiling the singer-songwriter, "Dennis Day is a versatile stylist who has an easy and distinctive style reminiscent of Brook Benton, Marvin Gaye, or The Platters' great lead singer Tony Williams, depending on the mood or the music. Judging by his latest recording project, he has an obvious knack for composition, too."

Two original tracks, featuring Day's intimate crooning, weave a masterful tapestry of vocalese and instrumental blend by showcasing both Day's gifts and the extraordinary talent of the late, great saxophonist Art Porter, Jr. The medium funk groove on Day's composition "Sunday Morning Sunshine" lays a solid foundation for one of the decade's most innovative high-tech performances, styled after the duet in which Natalie Cole paid homage to her father with the nostalgic ballad "Unforgettable."

Day's song features a powerful duet between two of jazz's most brilliant stars – Porter and the very much alive and vibrant wind instrumentalist Talib Kebwi, AKA TK Blue, longtime sideman with the Randy Weston Ensemble. TK Blue infuses the piece with vitality and passion, offering a melodic counterpoint to Porter's pulsating phrasing. Add a classic story line about awakening to one's lover, sung in an easy, fluid yet tempestuous style and bingo! Sheer magic.

The remix, mastered in New York City in 2001, offers both vocal and instrumental versions of Day's original renditions, which were recorded in Chicago in 1989. The ballad "Away with You" is a romantic overture, lush with seductive soprano sax forays that sing out like a Bird of Paradise calling its mate. The melody and mood match the singer's intensity, as in all classic R&B "pleaders," aching with the vulnerability of a desire that cannot and will not be denied.

Both TK Blue and Porter capture the essence of Day's melodic phrasing. The result is a soulful, mood-setting ballad that conflates the finer nuances of jazz and popular genres. Day's originals are stand-outs on this CD, but his covers of old R&B favorites command a healthy dose of respect, too. Songs like "Knock on Wood," a playful rendition of the Beatles' "Hard Day's Night," and the '70s anthem "Heard it Through the Grapevine" are all included in this great collection of old-school classics and jazz-influenced originals. This CD is a unique collectible and will make a valued addition to anyone's music library.

*Dennis Day – Back in the Day* is scheduled for release in late Spring 2004. The earlier recording, *Dennis Day – For Only You* is available at [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com).