

Sue Richardson

Emergence

Splash Point SPR006CD ★★★

Sue Richardson (v, t, flhn), Neal Richardson (p),
Andy Drudy (g), Jeremy Brown (b)
and Matt Skelton (d, perc).

Rec. June 2007

Launched at last year's London Jazz Festival, Sue Richardson's second album *Emergence* provides the ideal showcase for her versatility as a sweet-toned vocalist, dynamic trumpet player and classy arranger. The generous 14-track collection displays her discernible gift for penning memorable, swinging instrumentals ('Spare Ribs', 'A La Mode', 'Change of Direction') and heartfelt ballads (the contemplative 'Winter' and the utterly lovely 'Eclipse' which closes the set on a compositional highpoint). In addition to 12 originals, which include a variety of influences from her musical travels, notable trips to Havana ('I Just Can't Help Myself') and New Orleans ('Spotted Cat', in which the presiding spirit is clearly Django Reinhardt), Richardson also serves up a brace of imaginatively reworked standards, the album opener 'It Could Happen To You' and a sweetly languorous 'Dearly Beloved'. Beautifully produced and recorded, and featuring a terrific supporting cast, *Emergence* gathers up the multifarious strands of Richardson's musical persona into an impressive package. **Peter Quinn**