

***Liane Carroll***

**Liane Live: Liane Carroll Trio Live**

**Splash Point Records ★★★**

**Liane Carroll (v), Ian Shaw (v), and others.**

**Rec. and filmed 2006**

Until Liane won not one but two BBC Jazz Awards three years ago she'd been something of a well kept secret on the wider UK jazz scene. Winning gongs for both best vocalist and the somewhat belated Best of Jazz award, this was a big public acknowledgement of her talents as one of our foremost vocal stylists. Thus this nifty digi-packed DVD concert is the perfect opportunity to catch up on Carroll's impassioned and downright enjoyable live act. Captured at the height of her powers at her 2006 Brecon Jazz Festival appearance, she lets out all the stops for an emphatic demonstration of why she's so well loved by audiences and contemporaries alike. From the opening Nina Simone-ish 'Old Black Magic' the dynamite support of her bassist husband Roger Carey and drummer Mark Fletcher add serious power to the trio's sound. Yet it's the double whammy of Carroll's light touch at the piano and the power and versatility of her voice, through vocalese and simply great singing, that lights up the top line melodic energy. Obviously loving every minute of her time on stage, overflowing with joie de vivre she imbues everything she sings with a lived-in, been there earthy quality. But for all the emotion she brings to bear, her playful side is never far away and her cheeky, personable banter between songs only increases the artist/audience rapport. Ian Shaw drops by for a bluesy gospel-infused 'You've Got A Friend' the resulting spine-tingling harmonies are truly simpatico. **Mike Flynn**