

## L.A. JAZZ SCENE MAGAZINE

### Holly Hofmann Quartet at Steamers

Jazz flutist Holly Hofmann's superb quartet gave a fantastic performance at Steamers Friday evening, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> while celebrating her wonderful new CD, *Minor Miracle*. In her group is her pianist/husband, Mike Wofford, who does some splendid arrangements and is a high caliber, notable jazz pianist for many years. Tony Dumas performed the bass duties in grand style. As a special guest, and a treat for the fans, was veteran, legendary drummer Victor Lewis from New York.

The Mike Wofford trio began the evening with a tune entitled, "H2, an original piece, with Lewis doing a stellar drum solo while Wofford and Dumas performed back up and also added their own fine solos during the opener.

Mike then introduced his wife to the stage and they began a Conte Candoli composition, "Macedonia." This tune immediately showed Hofmann's dazzling, smooth flute work. Dumas did another bass solo with, not only excellent range on the bass, but chords implemented as well.

Featuring Lewis on the drums, the Harold Arlen tune, "Out Of This World," was done in a Latin groove, the trio giving maximum backing for Hofmann's excellent explorative and definitive playing. During this particular piece, Lewis's drumming demonstrated his ability to play the drums like congas or timbales as he would choose. His cymbal work is unique and impeccable and a style all of his own. In composition by Lewis, "Dex-Mex," that is a tribute to the great tenor sax player, Dexter Gordon, Lewis does more varied cymbal/rims drumming. Several notable drummers in the audience attending were Jeff Hamilton, Dean Koba, and Kevin Kanner, all bigger fans of drummer Victor Lewis and, of course, the Hofmann quartet.

Holly Hofmann plays, not only the regular C flute, but introduced a newer flute she has been playing. She calls it the "Big Dog," and it is a larger and longer flute curved at its end and a variation of her regular C flute. She demonstrated it in "If I Should Lose You," a fine arrangement by husband/pianist Wofford. The capacity crowd at Steamers was very pleased with this wonderful quartet. It is one of the best ensembles I have heard and enjoyed at Steamers yet! Three other tunes the quartet played in the first show from the new CD were Cole Porter's "Everything I Love," "CRS - CRAFT," by late, great bassist Ray Brown and title tune "Minor Miracle" on their new celebrated CD. She and her husband did a duo of an obscure song by Antonio Carlos Jobim, "Song Of The Jet." Closing the first set, a Latin version of "Johnny Come Lately," arranged beautifully by Wofford for the quartet.

Many years back I remember the flute jazz hit, "Swinging Shepherd Blues." Hofmann has excelled and surpassed all levels of performance as a jazz flautist and selected a wonderful assortment of tunes for *Minor Miracle*, which is getting a good amount of air

play on jazz stations around the country and parts of the world as well. She currently has several other excellent CDs – all on her website, [www.hollyhofmann.com](http://www.hollyhofmann.com) . Highly recommended.

Glenn A. Mitchell