



album reviews

GRETCHEN PARLATO *The Lost and*

Found (ObliqSound) Jazz phenom

Gretchen Parlato sings here with her trio: pianist Taylor Eigsti, bassist Derrick Hodge, and drummer Kendrick Scott. The selection is varied, from several Parlato originals to covers of songs by Mary J. Blige, Ambrose Akinmusire, Bill Evans, and the Brazilian samba master Paulinho da Viola. First up is Simply Red's "Holding Back the Years," which Parlato renders in her singular style: quiet, breathy, and frequently using her voice as a rhythm instrument. On the leader's "How We Love," Hodge switches from stand-up to electric bass, and Eigsti, here on Fender Rhodes, offers a delightful solo that's reminiscent of Return to Forever. Parlato mingles in the highest notes with the tenor sax of guest Dayna Stephens on Wayne Shorter's "Juju." For da Viola's "Alo, Alo," she sings in Portuguese (which she loves doing) accompanied only by percussion (part of which is her own vocal percussion, double-tracked). This is the third CD for Parlato, daughter of longtime Albuquerque-area jazz bassist David Parlato, since she won the Thelonious Monk Jazz Vocals Competition in 2004. (For a taste of her early, New Wave-type music, check out www.gretchenparlato.com and "The Other GP" link, where you'll hear fun songs like "Messy Girl" and "Little Teeth.") *The Lost and Found* often has an ethereal quality, but the delicate vocals are anchored by her weighty improvisations. This is magical stuff. — Paul Weideman

