



## Lauren Kinhan *A Sleepin' Bee*

DOTTED I

★★★★½

Lauren Kinhan, most famous for being a member of the New York Voices since 1992, became enamored with the classic *Nancy Wilson/Cannonball Adderley* (1961) recording on Capitol as a child. *A Sleepin' Bee* is her tribute to that album plus early Nancy Wilson in general.

On tribute albums, a balance needs to be struck between reverence and reinvention. Kinhan does not attempt to copy Wilson's singing style, although there are moments when the influence is naturally felt. Her singing is much more extroverted, high-powered and jazz-oriented with plenty of wild scatting that Wilson never would have attempted. The original Wilson/Adderley recording was split between vocals and instrumentals, with Wilson only starring on six songs. Five (all but "I'm Afraid The Masquerade Is Over") are on the new project along with five other songs from Wilson's 1960-'64 period.

"Let's Live Again," a delightful song from Wilson's album with George Shearing's quintet, *The Swingin' Mutual!* (1961), requires a wide range, which Kinhan readily displays during her boppish version. In contrast, "Guess Who I Saw Today" is overdue for retirement, although the singer does her best with it. Most memorable is an adventurous ride on "Never Will I Marry," one of three songs that feature excellent playing from guest trumpeter Ingrid Jensen. Nat Adderley's "The Old Country" has a prominent role for bassist Matt Penman before Jensen's trumpet gracefully transforms it into "Passion Flower." "Born To Be Blue" and "You Don't Know What Love Is" are treated more conventionally before the full group closes with a romp on "Happy Talk." —*Scott Yanow*

**A Sleepin' Bee:** Let's Live Again; Guess Who I Saw Today; A Sleepin' Bee; (You Don't Know) How Glad I Am; Never Will I Marry; Save Your Love For Me; The Old Country/Passion Flower; Born To Be Blue; You Don't Know What Love Is; Happy Talk. (50-23)

**Personnel:** Lauren Kinhan, vocals; Andy Ezrin, piano; Matt Penman, bass; Jared Schonig, drums; Ingrid Jensen, trumpet

**Ordering info:** [laurenkinhan.com](http://laurenkinhan.com)