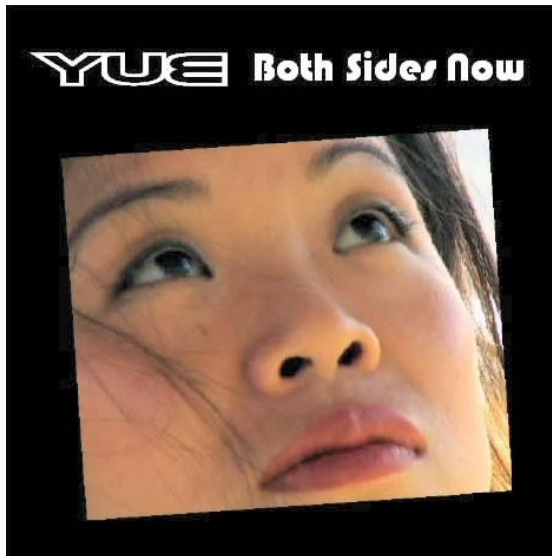


# Jazzletter

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Two or three years ago, I wrote an extended piece on the remarkable young Chinese violinist Yué Deng. We discovered her almost by accident, and I introduced her to my friend Roger Kellaway who immediately discovered that, unlike almost every classical violinist in the world, she has a capacity to phrase jazz.

Roger began to work with her intensively, writing one piece after another. What evolved is a kind of music I can't classify. It is perhaps a new kind of classical music incorporating extensive elements of jazz. Or maybe it's jazz with a strongly classical element. I think it is, to use Duke Ellington's phrase, "beyond category."

In July of this year, Roger and Yué played a week's engagement at Birdland in New York with Bill Charlap – two pianos and violin. It was a sell-out, and brought audiences to their feet night after night.

For nearly three years, Roger and Yué have been working on a CD of their collaboration. Roger has written all the music that she plays, but his own piano parts are extensively improvised. The material includes some classic jazz standards such as Bill Evans' *Waltz for Debby*, Ellington's *In a Sentimental Mood*, a wildly free version of Billy Strayhorn's *Lush Life*, and an utterly gorgeous version of Django Reinhardt's *Nuages*. There are a number of originals by Roger, including *All My Life*, *California Rainy Day*, and *So Young So Free*, as well as one by Yué, her first composition, *Ever After*. Joni Mitchell's piece *Both Sides Now* is the title tune of the CD.

The album is being released November 1st on Roger's own label Kellaway LightWorks. I think you would find this album stunning. We've set things up so that you can order an advance copy through the Jazzletter, but if you do order it, please make checks payable to Gene Lees.

The price is \$20.U.S. for the U.S. and Canada, including shipping and handling. Other countries \$30.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_