



## The Doctor Gets "The Phyllis Hyman Experience"

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On Saturday, August 24, I attended La Young's tribute to the great Phyllis Hyman called "The Phyllis Hyman Experience". Ms. Young's UK Soul hit, a remake of Hyman's "No One Can Love You More" has been on the UK charts for 31 weeks, and is

regularly featured on both of my radio shows, "Jazz and Soul on Ice" on WPKN 89.5 FM in Bridgeport, CT and "Jazz on Ice" on FOSR101FM.com based in Sparks, Nevada. I consider myself a Hymanite, an avid fan of Phyllis Hyman. I have regularly done tributes to her on my shows around the anniversary of her birth and death, and so I was obviously intrigued when I learned that LA Young was rolling out a tribute to her in April of 2019. I missed that show, but vowed to attend this one. I came for an experience. Man, oh man, it was MORE than an experience. This was not a cover show. It was not an ordinary tribute show. Ms. Young did not just mimic or imitate Phyllis Hyman. Instead, using visual imagery, dramatic storytelling, costume changes and her dynamic performance and vocals, she wove a beautiful and elegant tapestry of Phyllis Hyman's life, covering all eras of her music, including her Broadway run with "Sophisticated Ladies". I fell in love with Young while she sang my favorite Phyllis Hyman song, "Meet me on the Moon". I was mesmerized. Her broad vocal range and expert use of the microphone resulted in the smooth, sultry Contralto sounds that made you believe, for just one night, that the Queen was alive and among us.



Young's band, The Unusual Suspects, were unusually talented and not the least bit suspect at all. They were led by Musical Director and Keyboardist, Moe Daniels, whose virtuoso keyboard play was beyond phenomenal. He switched from full strings, to full horns, to xylophone, to piano and back to strings, with such amazing deftness you were looking to see if there hidden orchestral sections behind the curtain.

Saxophonist David Krug and backup Vocalist Tabitha Brooks were also outstanding and complemented Young's lead vocals. Krug's alto and soprano sax play would have made Pharaoh Sanders and Norman Connors proud and Brooks' background vocals can only be described as angelic. Brooks' played off Young so well, I was shocked to learn later she had just been hired a few weeks earlier. She sang with joy and enthusiasm and her engaging smile drew you in and kept you focused and immersed in the experience.

The Anacostia Playhouse is a terrific venue and the hosts were quite hospitable and accommodating. The sold-out shows were a result tremendous talent intersecting with great marketing and an inviting venue. I hope to support more of their programs soon. We need more venues like this around the country.

Young closed the experience with the chart topping, "No One Can Love You More" written by the late songwriter/producer Skip Scarborough. It was magical to have the legendary Alton McClain Scarborough, phenomenal vocalist and wife of the late songwriter/producer Skip Scarborough sing the final song with Young, and the most satisfying way to lower the curtain on this dramatic performance.

"The Phyllis Hyman Experience" was worth every mile I traveled from Connecticut to DC. If the show comes to a city near you in the future I highly recommend it, especially if you are a Hymanite. If you do decide to attend, please tell LA, The Doctor sent you.



To learn more about LA Young:

<http://www.layoungentertainment.com/la-young.html>

To listen to my recent interview with LA Young on Jazz and Soul on Ice:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-796855614/joi-la-young>

To listen to the 24/7 Jazz on Ice channel on FOSR101FM:

<http://faces-of-success-radio-101-fm.website-radio.com/>

To listen to Jazz and Soul on Ice on WPKN 89.5 FM Bridgeport:

[www.wpkn.org](http://www.wpkn.org)