

**UPBEAT**  
**VMA NEWSLETTER**  
**Bob Hales Review Dec 2007**

Jazz is a very expressive idiom and Jazz vocalist/ composer **Christie Grace** expresses herself extremely well in her latest CD release "Contemplation." She shows a broad range of emotions in this her latest effort. Overall I would describe her voice as being swingin', sultry, haunting and delicate at moments during her varied selection of songs. Her pitch is immaculate and it has been a long time since I have heard someone sing a jazz ballad so beautifully and at a perfect jazz tempo. Christie's compositions offer more than a few pensive moments as well as well as lighter fair as in her original "West Coast Girl." Six more of her originals are dressed up in swing, jazz waltz, latin and bossa nova idioms. She performs five standards on this CD and most notably is her treatment of **Joni Mitchell's** "Both Sides Now" and "Woodstock". "Moon River" features Christie's good friend on piano and synth harmonica, the one and only **David Letterman's Paul Shaffer**. This CD is an exceptional and well thought out jazz production and kudos to producers **Bill Runge** and **Christie** for their artistic contributions. Jazz accompaniment is provided on various cuts by keyboardists **Chris Gestrin** and **Michael Creber**, percussionist/ flautist **Jose Pepe Danza**, trumpeter **Vice Mai** and on all tracks by guitarist **Daryl Jahnke**, bassist **Jodi Proznik** and drummer **Dave Robbins**.