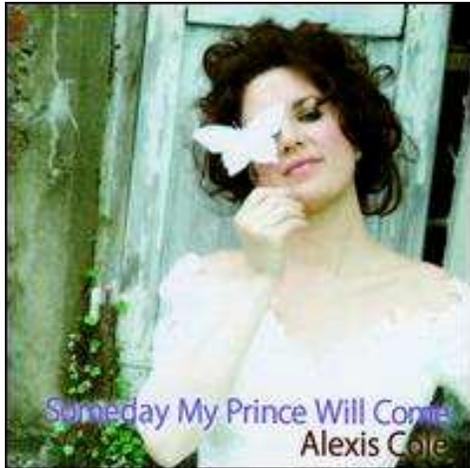




By Ernest Barteldes



Music from Disney films and cartoons has often drifted into jazz thanks to its rich harmonies and evergreen quality, but it is not every day that a vocalist makes an entire CD with personal renditions of these popular tunes.

Such is the case of Alexis Cole's *Someday My Prince Will Come*, which features a collection of Disney tunes reread into a jazz format. Cole cleverly did not choose songs that might be too obvious, focusing mostly on more obscure numbers such as the opener, the beautiful "For Now For Always" (from *The Parent Trap*) and "Once Upon A Dream" (from *Cinderella*).

Some tunes lend themselves naturally to a jazz format such as "Let Me Be Good To You," a bluesy tune that is used to showcase pianist Fred Hersch and bassist Steve LaSpina, who both contribute fluent solos, while Cole sings with a '50s Ella Fitzgerald-like style. The *Lady And The Tramp*'s "La La Lu" appears as a soft ballad enhanced by Don Braden's fluid flute solo.

Another highlight is "If I Never Knew You," the most recently composed tune on the disc, which originally appeared on the end credits for *Pocahontas*. Cole's voice is inspired, and Gregoire Maret contributes a Toots Thielemans-like harmonic response to her singing that enhance the tune's beauty.

Maret appears again on the title track, arguably the most memorable tune from *Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs*. His solo is followed by yet another great contribution from Hersch. La Spina and drummer Matt Wilson, who provides great backup, responding to the pianist's accents with gusto.

*Someday My Prince Will Come* is a great reminder of the timelessness of these songs and also a testament to Cole's talent. The New York-born vocalist makes each song her own. The only sad note is the fact that the disc was recorded before the soundtrack to *The Princess and The Frog* had been released. But maybe that could be included in a second volume along with tunes from *The Aristocats*.

Track listing: For Now For Always; La La Lu; Love; So This Is Love; Once Upon A Dream; Remember When; Someday My Prince Will Come; The Second Star To The Right; When You Wish Upon A Star.

Personnel: Fred Hersch: piano; Steve LaSpina: bass; Matt Wilson: drums; Gregoire Maret: harmonica; Don Braden: tenor, soprano, flute.