Beady Belle - On My Own (2016)

1 Marbles   2 On My Own   3 Castle   4 Bury   5 Almost   6 Incompatible   7 Lost Face   8 Dear Hope   9 The Clouds   10 Traffic In Mumbai   Acoustic Bass – Reuben Rogers Backing Vocals – Anja Martine Mørk, Torun Eriksen Cello – Audun Sandvik Drums – Gregory Hutchinson Grand Piano, Percussion, Electric Piano – Bugge Wesseltoft Guitar – Fran Cathcart Saxophone – Joshua Redman Trumpet – Mathias Eick Vocals - Beady Belle

Norwegian jazz group Beady Belle disbanded in 2015 but vocalist Beate Lech carried on the name and the 7th album (produced by Bugge Wesseltoft) 'On My Own' is the first following the split. Recorded in New York there is a cool, big city Jazz feel to the ebbing and flowing 'Marbles', 'On My Own' is an atmospheric piece, stripped back and full of suspense while 'Bury' has a finger clicking tempo and some lovely harmonies – a real grower. 'Incompatible' is a gentle, beautiful slow burner, 'Lost Face' picks up the tempo and builds throughout the track, 'Traffic In Mumbai' is also a highlight and is a sophisticated effort that showcases vocalist Beate's shimmering vocals while the smoky, space filled 'The Clouds' is a delight. Lovely album for fans of vocal jazz. ---soulbrother.com

Beady Belle is the creation of Beata Lech and she's a complex and rich writer with an outstanding voice. I heard the song "Almost" from this album on the radio, bought the whole CD and it became one of my favorites for late night listening. The sound on this CD is NY jazz (check out the players) but with songs of R&B/pop/electronic sensibilities, so a nice contemporary feel, eclectic and fresh. Some of the lyrics are unintentionally obscure, like of EnglishAsASecondLanguage vibe, but English IS her second language, so bravo to her. If you like a neosoul, jazz sound you'll love this album. ---jenny holland, allmusic.com

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