

"This wonderful singer thrills me when I hear her." -- Tony Bennett

"Whitfield's sense of phrasing a lyric or a melody is often unconventional, with a surprising little pause just when you don't expect it. She has a cunning way of reinventing a ballad with torchy finesse, and it's akin to hearing them for the first time." – Variety

"The most assured and affecting jazz-cabaret singer to arrive in New York in many years....." – New Yorker Magazine

"Wesla Whitfield has brought back a lost art by making old songs sound new every time she sings them. Perched on stools in rooms still dark but no longer smoky, Whitfield performs songs as conversations with her husband, arranger-pianist Mike Greensill; with the other musicians; with the composers and lyricists; with the emotion as a leaf in the wind, and sweet as sap. Whitfield sings it like it is; she has known despair and hope, and she's come out a cockeyed optimist. As she sings "When You Wish Upon A Star," you believe your dreams will come true because she does, and hers did." -- Boston Globe

"For Whitfield, it's always the words, delivered as if she's just chosen them herself. Is she the best singer -- jazz or whatever-around today? No disagreement here." -- Village Voice

"Wesla Whitfield's back in town: the best cabaret singer in the world. She knows how to point up every lewd nuance in a Cole Porter lyric. But she can also swing as hard as Nat Cole, and her way with a torch song is as devastatingly unsentimental as Frank Sinatra at his late-50s best." -- New York Daily News

"A lovely instrument, a sure technique, a novel way with phrase, a deep understanding of lyrics – these elements rarely come together in the work of a single vocalist. Where other singers choose histrionics, Whitfield consistently opts for understatement. Where lesser vocalists emphasize one register of their instrument over another, Whitfield produces lean, even, utterly controlled vocal lines top to bottom." -- Chicago Tribune

Wesla Whitfield is an indoor landmark. Every great city deserves a signature chanteuse, and San Francisco is fortunate to have Whitfield as its resident voice. Much like the city itself, Whitfield keeps an amused and affectionate eye on the glories of the past, while living entirely in the present. -- San Francisco Chronicle

"Light up the skyrockets and put out more flags: Wesla Whitfield's back in town." -- N.Y. Daily News

"Whitfield is, in short, a singer so good that she doesn't have to shout, she doesn't have to overdramatize, and she doesn't have to be anything other than what she is -- a nonpareil musical artist." -- The Los Angeles Times

"Whitfield internalizes a song so that she can share it as an aspect of her own resilience, humor, and hope." -- Boston Globe

"Wesla Whitfield renders song classics with such imagination that her interpretations can't be confused with anyone else's. Her technique is distinctive, too: she spins out the longest phrases in the business, sometimes saving intense surges for the very end, where others would be completely out of breath. ..Even modest shadings of color or mood pack a wallop." -- The New Yorker

"...ability to stay true to the composer's intentions with unusual grace and empathy." -- The Washington Post

"One of the finest masters of popular singing, Whitfield should be scrutinized by anyone attempting to learn the subtleties of the vocal arts, and treasured by listeners who value beautiful music, beautifully done. Her voice is pure yet as malleable as a jazz horn, and she uses it with meticulous attention to detail. The result is superb jazz singing." -- The Los Angeles Times

"My idea of the best of all possible musical experiences might well be Wesla Whitfield...her use of dynamics, often with a dramatic, personal flair...convert virtually every one of her renditions into a distinctive, personalized classic." -- San Francisco Examiner

"Whitfield is a singer who's got it all: clarion pitch, delicious tone, textbook enunciation, priceless timing, quick wit, and a lot more." -- Jazziz Magazine