

Redefining what it means to sing jazz

NEW ALBUM: Producer urged Andrea Superstein to colour recordings with her quirkiness

TOM HARRISON
THE PROVINCE

Andrea Superstein calls herself a jazz singer but her second album, *What Goes On*, calls into question what constitutes a jazz singer today.

It's an album with her interpretations of songs by Radiohead, Keene and Shocking Blue, three of her own songs, plus one hoary pop standard, *I Love Paris*, whose ambivalence doesn't make it sound like she loves Paris at all.

The playfulness of *After You've Gone* mingles with the bluesy *Venus* and the imaginative spin on *Karma Police* all add up to anything but what conventionally is thought of as jazz.

So what is a modern jazz singer?

"I'm not sure I have an answer for that," she replies. "I definitely came up in the jazz scene. If you listen to my first album (*One Night*), it's more straight ahead."

Born in Montreal, raised in Vancouver and promoted by the Coastal Jazz & Blues Society, Superstein has jazz credentials, but was eager to try something different with her second album.

But what?

As she recounts in her notes for *What Goes On*, she heard a track on CBC Radio by Meaghan Smith that encapsulated her feelings about jazz and indie music. Produced by Les Cooper, who also produced the diverse Jill Barber, Smith showed her the merger she was seeking was possible. Superstein contacted Cooper, flew to Toronto to meet him and to record.

"I really wanted to pass everything off to Les," Superstein says. "That was a big week for me."

"We didn't talk too much about the arrangements. The reason I

In concert

Andrea Superstein

Where: Frankie's,
765 Beatty St.

When: Friday (Nov. 20)
at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 at coastaljazz.ca

wanted to work with Les is that he'd produced records that I really admired.

"Over the years, he's been embraced by the jazz scene, but still had that indie vibe. I knew right away that Les understood my musicianship. It felt so right. We were on the same page."

Cooper gave her the freedom to make the album she imagined and to let her irreverence, most evident on the smile-inducing *After You've Gone*, to colour the album.

"That just came out. It's an aspect of my personality. It was important to me have a balance. I'm a bit of a quirky person and there is a bit of that quirkiness on the record."

"These are songs I just love," she adds. "I respect those songs and bands so much. I had to find a way that paid homage to them while putting my own stamp on it."

The experience (or experiment) has given her a range that redefines jazz in a way that audiences appreciate as well as emboldening her to go further.

"I hope so," Superstein says. "I want to think about music in new ways. I want to keep evolving. I'm excited by the way we're going."

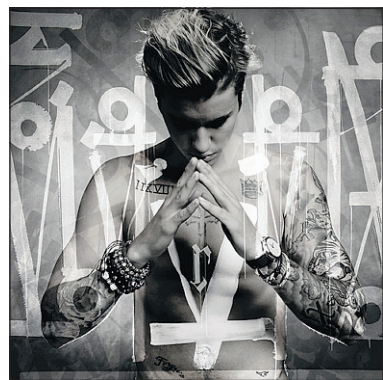
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Tom Harrison is the author of the eBook *Tom Harrison's History of Vancouver Rock 'n' Roll*. Download it at Amazon, Kobo, Apple iBooks and Google Play.



Singer Andrea Superstein was eager to try something different in her sophomore album.

Pop battle: The Biebs steps up, knocks One Direction out of the park



Justin Bieber's *Purpose*.

— DEF JAM FILES

DARRYL STERDAN
WINNIPEG SUN

Music is not a competition. Except for the times it is. And this is definitely one of those times.

Justin Bieber and One Direction have just released their fifth albums. So which should you get? I spent hours listening, comparing and contrasting Bieber's *Purpose* and 1D's *Made in the A.M.* Here are the results:

The stakes

What's on the line? Credibility and cash. For Bieber, it's about re-estab-

lishing himself as a serious contender. For 1D, it's about proving they can carry on as a quartet after the loss of Zayn Malik.

The opening

1D kick off their 17-song deluxe edition with the traditional big opener: *Hey Angel*, a stadium-sized shot of swaggering Brit-pop. To start his 18-track deluxe edition, Bieber takes a subtle and stylish approach with the atmospheric *Mark My Words*.

The music

Bieber leaves teen-pop behind

here to embrace EDM and dark R&B — though he also tosses in a few too many syrupy ballads. By contrast, One Direction stick to their guns with another slate of middle-of-the-road pop-rock influenced by classic artists from The Beatles and Kinks to Oasis and Arctic Monkeys.

The winner

It could have been a battle of titans, but it wasn't even close. While Bieber steps up, the lads of One Direction stumble with a predictable outing that feels more like a step backward. Bieber by a knockout.



Made in the A.M. from One Direction. — SYCO FILES