

GET YOUR KICKS

Meet Deborah Shulman and The Ted Howe Trio as they swing Bobby Troup

Rick Busciglia

examiner.com (9/13)

Start with a deep sophisticated, smokey, sensual voice, add Sinatra level phrasing and you have the marvelous talent of Deborah Shulman. She is swinging with The Ted Howe Trio on a new album "Get Your Kicks: The Music of Bobby Troup. Deborah Shulman is a jazz singer, recording artist, musical theater artist, and vocal coach with an eclectic, international resume who has recorded four CD's: Get Your Kicks, released in June 2013, 2 For The Road, My Heart's In The Wind, and Lost In The Stars.

On the "Get Your Kicks" album, she sings 11 Bobby Troup tunes....naturally topping the list is Troup's first and biggest hit "Route 66." (Watch the video with our shipboard retelling of how Troup and the first Mrs. Bobby Troup wrote the song together on their post-war cross country trip to LA from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.) Two other Troup tunes that have become certified members of the Great America Songbook....Daddy and Girl Talk get star treatment from Deborah and the excellent The Ted Howe Trio. Our favorite of the other lesser known Bobby Troup songs is the clever "Nice Girls Don't Stay For Breakfast."

Deborah Shulman: Get Your Kicks

Dan Bilawsky

allaboutjazz.com (7/13)

Vocalist Deborah Shulman wanted Get Your Kicks to be "a jazz album with a party vibe," which is something far different from her previous record—the wonderful (and weightier) Lost In The Stars: The Music Of Bernstein, Weill & Sondheim (Summit Records, 2012). The differing moods of each album, ultimately, reflect the musical nature of the composer(s) being covered; Bernstein, Weill, and Sondheim have "serious" written over much of their respective work while Troup's tunes belong to a cooler school.

The title of this album references Troup's most famous song, the immortal "Route 66," but that's hardly the only music of note that came from his pen; many people forget that he also wrote "Daddy," "Meaning Of The Blues," "Lemon Twist" and the lyrics to Neal Hefti's "Girl Talk." Shulman explores all of those numbers and more during this delightful Troup travelogue.

Get Your Kicks is an outgrowth of a theatrical Troup tribute show that Shulman and pianist Ted Howe started performing at clubs in 2009, so it makes sense that Howe is at the helm here; he arranged all eleven tunes on the date, from the funky "Route 66" rewrite to the smile-inducing "The Three Bears" to the less-than-cheery "Girl Talk." In each instance, Howe finds a way to amplify the meaning of the song through his writing without completely obscuring the known quantities associated with the music; that's no easy feat, but he makes it look easy.

The aforementioned desire to make this into a "party vibe" platter is realized in songs like "Route 66," "Daddy," "Baby All The Time," "Lemon Twist" and "The Three Bears," but countered with numbers like "February Brings The Rain" and "Meaning Of The Blues." Those diversions from the set course ultimately help to bring balance to a record that could have gone a bit too far in the desired direction.

Shulman's vocals are terrific throughout. She can be spunky, seductive or sedate, depending on what the song requires, and she almost always get the heart of the matter. The only place where she sounds a bit

boxed in is during "Daddy." The song's lighthearted nature is lost in this funky and forceful reading. Everything else on the record feels just right, as Shulman, Howe and the superb-and-sensitive rhythm combo of drummer Dave Tull and bassist Kevin Axt come together to form the ultimate Troup troop.

Deborah Shulman & The Ted Howe Trio
Get Your Kicks: The Music and Lyrics of Bobby Troup
George W. Harris
JazzWeekly.com (8/13)

I know it's a sin to envy, but it takes a lot of will power not to be jealous of the life of Bobby Troup. He wrote a bunch of hit songs that earned him a ton of cash, married a dish in Julie London, and even made cameo appearances of TV shows like Mannix. Not a bad gig, and mature toned vocalist Deborah Shulman does an impressive job in bringing back into focus a bagful of Troup's goodies.

Of course, you've got the biggies like "Route 66" and "Girl Talk," but she and her trio give them different hues, with the former delivered in an almost hip-hop fashion and the latter coming across as a conversation at Starbucks. "Three Little Bears" is coy and bouncy, while "Daddy" has a peppy 60s pop feel to it. While you may groan over no inclusion of "The Girl Can't Help It," bluesy late night dealings of "Baby all the Time" and "Meaning of the Blues" make up for it." She's got an alluringly clear enunciation as well as a gentle swing to her timing. Guess she just couldn't help it that she was born to please...

Deborah Shulman & The Ted Howe Trio
Get Your Kicks: The Music and Lyrics of Bobby Troup
Joe Lang
Jersey Jazz (8/13)

The last album from vocalist DEBORAH SHULMAN was a collection of songs by Leonard Bernstein, Kurt Weill and Stephen Sondheim. This time out, she has gone in a distinctly different direction, from Broadway to songs by one of the hippest songwriters ever, Bobby Troup. Albums of songs by Troup are rare indeed, the only others that I am aware of are by Troup himself and Mark Winkler. Shulman's Get Your Kicks: The Music & Lyrics of Bobby Troup (Summit – 607) is a winner. Shulman gets it when it comes to singing Troup. She is hip when called for, poignant if that is the way she should be, sexy and naughty if appropriate, and always embraces humor in those lyrics that only Troup could have written. Her support comes from the Ted Howe Trio, with Howe on piano, Kevin Axt on bass and Dave Tull on drums. Howe also did the spot on arrangements with a lot of input from Shulman. Some of the tunes will be familiar to most listeners, "Route 66," "Daddy," "Baby, Baby All the Time" and "Girl Talk" have had many recordings. "You're Looking at Me," "Lemon Twist," "It Happened Once Before" and "Meaning of the Blues" are some under the radar songs that have found their way to some of the more perspicacious singers. "Nice Girls Don't Stay for Breakfast" and "February Brings the Rain" are most associated with Julie London, Mrs. Bobby Troup, while "The Three Bears" was a hit for Page Cavanaugh. Given her effectiveness with Troup's material, she might look into paying similar attention to Matt Dennis, Murray Grand or Charles DeForest, others who wrote great songs that deserve the kind of exposure that Shulman gives to Bobby Troup with this terrific album.

Deborah Shulman & The Ted Howe Trio
Get Your Kicks: The Music and Lyrics of Bobby Troup

Michael C. Bailey
All About Jazz (7/13)

Songwriter Bobby Troup was a master at composing conversational lyrics, and vocalist Deborah Shulman is a master at interpreting such lyrics. That the two come together on *Get Your Kicks: The Music and Lyrics of Bobby Troup* should be no surprise; also, it is about time that Troup received an homage treatment like this. His lyrics were always 1950s chic, written in a day before political correctness ended the evolution and expansion of the Great American Songbook. What Shulman does is bring an honest understanding of both a music and its period of popularity.

Ted Howe joins Shulman again after their collaboration with trombonist Larry Zalkind on *Lost In The Stars: The Music Of Bernstein, Weill & Sondheim* (Summit, 2012). Here, leading his trio, Howe's approach to arrangement is striking and illustrated in the rather dark "Route 66" and pathologically forlorn "Nice Girls Don't Stay For Breakfast." In Shulman's hands these are ballads of experience—too much, in fact, rather than a blushing socialite after an evening tryst.

One of Troup's most striking and controversial songs, "Girl Talk" is give a golden treatment, with Shulman navigating the period's sexism and making the song more ironic than a 1950s vision of women in the Eisenhower era. *Get Your Kicks: The Music and Lyrics of Bobby Troup* is a wholly conceived project by two masters at the top of their respective games.

Get Your Kicks: The Music and Lyrics of Bobby Troup
Deborah Shulman, vocals
George Fendel
Jazz Society of Oregon (6/13)

If you're somewhere in my age range, surely you remember Bobby Troup. If you don't know of him, don't miss this chance to hear his songs. Troup was a classy, smoky, small jazz bar type of pianist who was also blessed with an ultra-hip singing voice. In addition, he turned out some delightful melodies and lyrics, did some acting and, lucky guy, was married to Julie London. In fact, it was she who originally sang some of these while Bobby did others. Well, all these years later, along comes a singer named Deborah Shulman to do honor to the "Troup book," and she does so with solid accompaniment from the Ted Howe Trio. I'll bet you remember titles like "You're Looking at Me," "Daddy," "Baby, Baby All the Time," "Girl Talk," "The Meaning of the Blues" and Troup's mega-hit, "Route 66." On all these and more, Shulman takes care in never putting too much frosting on the cake. After all, it's a recipe which enjoys a solid place in American jazz history.

Deborah Shulman and The Ted Howe Trio
Get Your Kicks
The Jazz Page.com (6/13)

On her fourth recording release, vocalist Deborah Shulman is joined by the Ted Howe Trio for a really pleasing tribute to great composer and lyricist Bobby Troup. In Shulman, you have an experienced singer who knows her way around a song. In Howe, you have a very talented arranger and bandleader who creates really engaging arrangements of tunes. They work really well together. The project swings nicely and slows down just as well. Also helping to make a good thing better are the other members of the trio, Dave Tull on drums and Kevin Axt on bass. The talented unit, along with the lead, provide an extremely entertaining homage to a great American talent.

Deborah Shulman: Get Your Kicks
Nicholas F. Mondello
All About Jazz (6/13)

In the vicinity of Staunton, Illinois, a short strip of asphalt heretofore known as "Route 66" lies silently abandoned. A local wag once suggested that the ghost remnant be pulverized into bits and sold to nostalgia types, with a wealth to be had—probably by the wag. Whether or not a fortune is to be made with vocalist Deborah Shulman's *Get Your Kicks: The Music and Lyrics of Bobby Troup* remains to be seen, but this recording is a treasure trove of talent.

Much has been written about Bobby Troup: his personal, musical, and television lives, and his spirit-drenched oeuvre. For decades, his compositions have been explored musically by artists across the genre spectrum. Rarely, however, have they been sent up with the flair, originality, and intelligence presented here.

Shulman is a highly engaging vocalist and revered vocal coach for artist including Bette Midler and Linda Ronstadt. Here, she steps into a welcoming spotlight and is the perfect rhapsode for the shrewd lyrics and melodies Bestowed by Troup. Her rhythmic and melodically savvy approach, perfect diction and phrasing make Troup's lines shine even brighter. And, with marvelously inventive arrangements and superb backing of pianist Ted Howe and his trio, the entire quartet frames and delivers the material impeccably.

The selections range from the expected—a neat hip-rock "Route 66" and the Material Girls' anthem, "Daddy"—to Troup's lesser-recorded material, including a stunningly beautiful rendition of "February Brings the Rain" and a slick-chick "Nice Girls Don't Stay for Breakfast." As these and the other selections unfold, two things are readily apparent: Shulman's overall talent sends the material out of the park, and Howe's original arrangements ("Girl Talk") and impeccable accompaniment and soloing soar. Bassist Kevin Axt and drummer Dave Tull support tastefully, and they all swing.

While kicks "just keep getting harder to find," and if sterile Interstates have driven "The Mother Road" into obsolescence (with the aforementioned wag dreaming on), *Get Your Kicks* is indeed and in deed a Troup tour de force, no '60s Corvette required.

Track Listing: You're Lookin' at Me; Route 66; Nice Girls Don't Stay for Breakfast; Daddy; Baby All the Time; Girl Talk; Lemon Twist; February Brings the Rain; The Three Bears; It Happened Once Before; Meaning of the Blues.

Get Your Kicks: The Music & Lyrics of Bobby Troup
Deborah Shulman & the Ted Howe Trio
Mark S. Tucker
Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange (6/13)

Bobby Troup's one of those cats who kinda sorta got somewhat lost in the shuffle in that talent-n-luck circus calling itself 'Hollywood'—not terribly dis-served, mind you, but never quite recognized for his most shining virtue: some very good song writing. He was a quite the exponent of West Coast Cool, and no one forgets the immortal (*Get Your Kicks* on) Route 66, the theme to the television series (1960-1964), but didja know it first made a hit by Nat King Cole in 1946? Yep, few realize it, but the track was 14 years old by the time the show appeared. More, that's his *The Girl Can't Help It* you hear Little Richard singing in the 50s rock & roll film of the same name. But Troup was also an actor portraying,

among other roles, Dr. Joe Early opposite his second wife, actress / torch singer Julie London, in the TV series Emergency. Then, when you again catch The Gene Krupa Story, pay attention to the Tommy Dorsey character—that's Troup. 'Member Robert Altman's MASH movie? 'Member that guy wandering through the film uttering just that one line "Goddam Army!"" That's Bobby as well.

But Hollywood and the entire media swamp can be fickle bitches, and Troup never saw commercial musical success under his own aegis despite releasing a dozen LPs from 1955 to 1959 through various labels, afterwards never issuing material though he lived another four decades. Thus, Deborah Shulman and Ted Howe decided it was high time the man's work was put back into circulation. A trio format became the ideal choice, bringing out the martini / nightclub / swinging / literate hipster vibe most vividly. Shulman modulates everything to be more on the side of theater-cool and reflective than boppy—though there's plenty of that as well—as though Get Your Kicks were a review travelling back and forth between off-Broadway and your living room.

The charting Girl Talk is here made a good deal more serious, more wistful, mistier. Julie London covered it in her vampy wonderful way but Shulman's version is almost Romance academic, a philosophical approach, darker, more realistic. Well, you know how those beatniks were—into existentialism, Sartre, that sort of thing. The singer balances between the popularized version and a latterday Byronic pensée, Howe's piano perfectly underwriting both attitudes, a bit glacial, some sunlight here, shadows and fog there, even the edges of atonal neurosis. So, hm, yeah, you may have thought Troup was an adjunct of the media machine, but there was a lot more there than surface readings indicate. Lemon Twist repeats the Girl Talk double entendre, advocating alcoholism via spurious scientific health advice via "the habit of lemon twist", code for martinis and cocktails.

In that Madison Avenue pitch, Shulman and crew bop along in a Mad Men two-step, but is it a joy peripatetic or parody? February Brings the Rain follows after and speaks of "winter's icy chains" and "gay champagne" in a deep grey funk. "The world was yours and mine" quote Troup, but Shulman brings that lie out, quite as the writer had intended, in no uncertain terms. Have a quaalude or two handy when you listen to it. Repair, I say, to The Three Bears if you want light finger-snapping entertainment, but beware some of the rest. The pristine period arrangements and Deb's melodious encantations are seductive, rightly so, that's part of the game, but in hip breezy asides is where some of the most sly material resides. It's highly likely you'll, more than once, hear a cut and shout "Man, that is sooooo cool!", then, a minute later, mutter "Hey... wait a minute.....!".

DEBORAH SHULMAN & The Ted Howe Trio/Get Your Kicks
Chris Spector
Midwest Record (6/13)

True story that has nothing to do with Shulman. Quite a while back, I had a client that wanted me to help him contract a tribute album to Bobby Troup. I went back and forth as the go between, often calling Troup at home with the phone being answered by his wife. It wasn't until several calls into this volley that I realized I was talking to Julie London. How cool was that? Maybe you had to be there. A family friend of the Troups by marriage, Shulman brings a built in affinity to the music pulling off a killer 180 degree turn from last year's Kurt Weill album showing she can deliver the hits to all fields and is no one trick pony. Expertly capturing the late night hipster vibe of martini fueled days gone by, Shulman and Howe are here to get inside the music and deliver it properly, which they do a great job of. A dandy revitalization of one of the pop master craftsmen, this is top shelf throughout. Well done.

Get Your Kicks: The Music & Lyrics of Bobby Troup

Deborah Shulman & The Ted Howe Trio
Jack Goodstein
Blogcritics.org

If all you know about the music of Bobby Troup is his “Route 66” road saga and the kittenish “Daddy,” songstress Deborah Shulman’s latest album, *Get Your Kicks: The Music & Lyrics of Bobby Troup*, will be a delightful introduction. Certainly the Troup songbook is not as ubiquitous as that of a Cole Porter or a Sammy Kahn, and that is our loss. His music deserves better, and Deborah Shulman delivers. Listen to Shulman’s coy flirtatious interpretations and you’ll begin to get an idea of what you’ve been missing,

Shulman says that other than “Route 66,” she hadn’t been familiar with the music before she got involved in the project. But she knew that her husband had been a friend of the Troup family, and thought it would “be fun to explore the connection.” They were given access to the family’s musical library. “It was like going on a treasure hunt,” she explains, and the 11 tunes eventually chosen for the disc are treasures she, along with her pianist arranger Ted Howe and his trio, has made her own.

Shulman opens with a mischievous version of “You’re Looking at Me,” followed by a wild romp through “Route 66,” which features a lot of cool bass. Between the two, they set the party tone for the rest of the album. “Nice Girls Don’t Stay for Breakfast,” delivered with a vocal wink, echoes with delicious irony, and she swings with the trio in a dynamic, upbeat “Daddy” that even gets a little raucous as it ends. Indeed, the singer packs all of the ballads on the CD with an honesty born, she indicates, from her own “marriage collapse.” Her bluesy “Baby All the Time” that builds to a dynamite dramatic climax is one of the album’s highlights. Bleak though they are, “February Brings the Rain” and “The Meaning of the Blues” are gorgeous tunes sung with intensity. “It Happened Once Before” looks at the emotional peril involved in making a new romantic commitment. The trio—Howe on piano, Kevin Axt on bass and Dave Tull on drums—adds some elegant solo work through all of the ballads.

“The Three Bears” is a whimsical take on the children’s story and “Lemon Twist” goes for some witty word play, backed up by some equally witty solo work from the trio. “Girl Talk,” the one song on the album for which Troup only wrote the lyrics (the music is by Neal Hefti) gets a much more haunting, or as the liner notes describe it, darker treatment in Howe’s arrangement than it usually gets.

“I wanted this to be a jazz album with a party vibe. I wanted this to be a jazz album, with no crossover.” If that’s what Deborah Shulman intended, she hit the mark. This is an album that will have you smiling.

Deborah Shulman: *Get Your Kicks*
Oscar Brooks
Examiner.com

There are 11 songs on this disc including: Three Bears, Route 66, Girl Talk, February Brings The Rain and my favorite Daddy. Shulman has a strong voice and has fine vocal tones. She is not only a singer and recording artist, but a vocal coach as well. She displays quite a range going from the melancholy tone of Meaning of Blues to the charged up Lemon Twist. She is not afraid to put her stamp on a song.

Howe adds such fine piano work and Tull is splendid on the drums and percussion. When you add up the ingredients, you have a nice selection of music. It is a pleasure listening to this CD and hopefully there will be more in the works from Shulman. You can follow her website which is <http://www.deborahshulman.com>. I hope you that you will give this one a listen. I think you will be glad you did.

Get Your Kicks The Music & Lyrics of Bobby Troup
Deborah Shulman & The Ted Howe Trio
Criticaljazz.com
Brent Black

Jazz should be fun...More passion, less academia. Deborah Shulman & The Ted Howe Trio blow the dust off the West Coast cool sound which seems to have been hiding out in the jazz witness protection program to tackle the work of iconic songwriter Bobby Troup.

Shulman digs deep in the Troup catalog and turns in wonderful performances on such little known works as "February Brings The Rain" and "It Happened Once Before." The Ted Howe trio brings together an A list of top self accompanists with terrific arrangements all delivered with that special something that made the work of Bobby Troup stand the test of time. Naturally no good tribute type release would be complete here without such memorable tunes as "Route 66" and the classic "Girl Talk." Shulman displays that special gift of immediate connectivity with an audience and goes from singer to vocal artist in the blink of an eye. Ted Howe's arrangements seal the deal with an inventive style that helps breath a second life into some timeless classics.

Female vocalists are a tightly clustered pack of talented artists that on occasion can get a little "one note" thanks to the influence of shows such as American Idol and The Voice. Deborah Shulman brings a warm tone with impeccable phrasing with perhaps the best compliment being she does not sound like anyone but herself and that my friends is a beautiful thing!

Solid. Well thought out and incredibly entertaining!