



Pure Pleasure PPAN 17529  
Stacey Kent: Changing Lights  
Format: 2LPs 33rpm / gatefold sleeve

Manufacturer: Pure Pleasure  
Original label: Parlophone  
Release date: 24.07.2014

Stacey Kent's latest recording again demonstrates her vocal mastery. The immaculate intonation, timing and diction are flawless to the point of sheer purity. Her voice becomes an instrument with impeccable clarity and minimal vibrato. Her focus on this album is largely Latin numbers switching English with clever changes into Portuguese, and French imperceptibly. There are covers of bossa nova numbers from Tom Jobim and two songs written by novelist and lyricist Kashou Ishiguro; namely the title song "Changing Lights", a sublime number, and "The Summer We Crossed Europe" a story gracefully sung by Ms Kent. "Waiter, Oh Waiter" is a neat request for help in choosing from a foreign menu. "How Insensitive" is quite the opposite. The Brazilian "One Note Samba" is a difficult number to handle at such pace with the short-spaced almost staccato notes; Stacey effortlessly takes the scale runs in her stride. The arrangements and accompaniment of husband Jim Tomlinson are outstanding. The rhythm section is wonderfully subtle with particular praise for the percussionists, pianist Graham Harvey and the Latino guitarists' phrasing. However, this is Stacey Kent's record first and foremost; impressive and top class. Highly recommended.

Recording: November 2012 and April 2013 at Curtis Schwartz Studios, Ardingly (UK) by Curtis Schwartz  
Production: Jim Tomlinsonh

"Changing Lights" - Stacey Kent (voc, g); Jim Tomlinson (ts, ss, fl); Graham Harvey (p, el-p); Roberto Menescal, John Parricelli (g); Jeremy Brown (b); Matt Home, Joshua Morrison (dr); Raymundo Bittencourt (ganza)