

Tammy Weis, Where I Need To Be (Boomtang Records)

★★★★

ACTIVE on the London jazz scene, Canadian Tammy's album was launched at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club last night. Working the American song-book several nights a week has paid off, the 10 Tammy originals demonstrate lessons in lyrics well-spent. On All Because Of You, "The touch of your hand/makes my loneliness stand/to attention – your

caressable moves/sends my schoolgirl blues/to detention" shows keen understanding of the inner rhymes of a song. Avoiding the urge to "jazz the Beatles", Help becomes slow 6/8 time and reveals the vulnerability of the lyrics. Pianist and co-songwriter Tom Cawley is a revelation. From the sharp end of contemporary jazz, with Curios and the punk-jazz Acoustic Ladyland, he is as sympathetic and delicate as David Newton. Not a jazz singer who ploughs the scotland of shabba dabba doo, Tammy is more the relaxed, Diana Krall/Jamie Cullum school, soulful and measured, yet sassy and Latin when required. File under Quality.

Ron Burnett