

LINER NOTES FROM THE ALBUM...

The singer Ian Shaw is unstinting in his praise for the breadth of Neal Richardson's talent and achievement, describing him as “a gem of a musical citizen, an accomplished pianist, singer and composer; an excellent producer, and a superb engineer able to deploy an astonishing and accommodating musical ear.”

Since setting up Splash Point Music ten years ago, Neal has worked tirelessly to ensure that artists such as Liane Carroll and Ian Shaw become better-known, and has thereby made a huge behind-the-scenes contribution to the UK jazz scene, and to its renown both at home and abroad. And whoops, there goes another triumph: on the day I write this, one of Splash Point's CDs, *Too Cool*, Sue Richardson's tribute to Chet Baker, produced and engineered by Neal, has just appeared in the Sunday Times' list of the Top Ten jazz CDs of the year.

In some walks of life, successful people like to make themselves increasingly hard to reach. Not singer-songwriters or jazz improvisers. They deliberately choose to put themselves in a context where there is nowhere to hide. Neal Richardson brings a fundamental honesty and integrity to everything he does. It comes across strongly in the way he conducts the business of Splash Point, and will also be plain to anyone who listens to this very personal, deeply-thought and beautifully produced album.

Sebastian Scotney

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