

The Pfister Sisters ~ Quotes & Reviews

Provincetown Magazine

"Any one of these three could hold a stage in her own right. It's rare for 3 singers of this caliber to work with the intense discipline required to create this sound. What they accomplish is dazzling. Don't miss them."

Dirty Linen, Folk, Electric Folk, Traditional and World Music, Feb/Mar '96

"We know they are not really sisters. But when Holley Bendtsen, Suzie Malone, and Yvette Voelker step into the singers' box as the sophisticated sounding Pfister Sisters, mercy, they can tie wit, tradition, subversion (Marx Brothers variety), lust, devotion (in both sacred and profane forms), and New Orleans joie *de vivre* into a gyroscopic mirrored ball. Pianist-arranger-producer Amasa Miller brings in Crescent City funky bass star Geroge Porter, John Vidacovich for drummer, Ken "Snakebite" Jacobs on tenor saxophone, Wendell Brunious blowing trumpet, and John Malone blowing his own lips, and these Mr. Pfisters offer the kind of cutting support one is used to encountering only at the pinnacles of jazz. Underfunded Great Southern Records founder John Berthelot is to be commended for persevering and finally getting this mid-1980s slice of vinyl issued on CD. Berthelot took no shortcuts in the process, enlisting Mark Bingham and Don Turnipseed to digitally gussy up the original tapes, which now separate out the magnificently discrete elements, and bring every lip-licking nuance to the fore."

"Nearly half of these 16 songs come from the repertoire of the Boswell Sisters, New Orleans' first ladies of song — whose complex overstepping three-part vocalizing got mainstreamed into the mass marketable Andrews Sisters and other, later, girl groups. Two bonus tracks recorded in the late 1980s have been added to this CD re-issue. One of them, "Down at the Jazz Fest," is a hot-tot-hot roll call of Orleanian musical cool... just wave as your faves go by. Cole Porter's "It's Too Darn Hot" fits these Pfisters like a damp, curvaceous glove."

Offbeat Magazine, June, 2001

"Yvette Voelker and Holly Bendtsen along with newcomer Debbie Davis captivated an overflow crowd at the Economy Hall Tent with their trad era vocal stylings based on the brilliant work of the Boswell Sisters. Since Davis joined the band over a year ago she has breathed new life into this act which was even more apparent at this sparkling performance. "

"Highlights included some unique Boswellian tributes to Duke Ellington including a version of 'It Don't Mean a Thing' that was just as innovative and atypical as Dr. John's recent revisionist arrangement—the difference being that the Boswell's rendition was recorded more than 70 years earlier."

1997 Jazz Fest review at 'Radio Free New Orleans' Internet Site on the Web

"The Pfisters' specialty, the recreation of the harmonies of New Orleans' own Boswell Sisters, occupies an important place in the history and evolution of New Orleans music. The Boswell Sisters, in the twenties and thirties, invented close harmony jazz singing. They would take the popular song of the day and "twist 'em up." They changed keys, rhythms, and tempos in the space of a three minute tune, and sometimes threw in a little three part scat singing or blues wailing."

"The Pfister Sisters carry on this tradition. Their music, however, is anything but a museum piece. Their voices melt together, their band really kicks, and they get the audience smiling and swaying in the timelessness that is the joy of music."

Downbeat Magazine

"*The Pfister Sisters* (Great Southern Records #11010) are a talented vocal trio who specialize in a variety of classic jazz genres ..."

Billboard

"Recommended. A nice blend for swing and nostalgia buffs alike."

College Music Journal

"*The Pfister Sisters* (Great Southern Records #11010) A+ for historical preservation and top grade as a fun record."