

A Women Thing. A rather apt title for the new album by Les Brünettes, the second the a cappella quartet have recorded. Since their debut album, which appeared in 2012, the four young women have caused quite a furore. Award winners at the 'Internationale A Cappella Wettbewerb Leipzig 2013' and the 'International A Cappella Competition Vokal.total.2013 Graz', they have performed well over 100 concerts.

Their new album, **A Women Thing**, is an homage to strong, creative and sensual women. They have created a fascinating double portrait of Les Brünettes as composers and arrangers alongside the women who serve as their inspiration: Female artists whose songs entire generations identified with, exceptional singers, women with unique life stories who paved the way for future female artists.

Joni Mitchell, whose forty-year career saw her fronting various band line-ups involving some of the world's best jazz musicians, started out as an unknown singer-songwriter in New York. **Nina Simone** became one of the leading musical figures in the fight against racism in the USA. **Nena**, world-famous proponent of NDW (German new wave), mother of four and still one of the most popular German singers today. **Edith Piaf**, a poor street musician who made the French chansons style famous all over the world and still influences contemporary chansons music. **Mercedes Sosa**, whose songs became the anthems of the Argentinian workers' movement. **Cassandra Wilson**, one of the world's most famous jazz singers who combined modern arrangements with Mississippi Delta blues. **Aretha Franklin**, the First Lady of Soul and, last but not least, **Lizz Wright** whose gospel-soaked Dixie vibe establishes a link to the contemporary music scene.

A Women Thing is the quartet's personal take on the works created by their icons, a journey embracing different decades, continents, languages and styles. Putting their own stamp on the songs, Les Brünettes artfully reconcile this diversity using only the sound of four female voices. The four singers obviously work very well together, each voice has its own place and the moments of silence are as riveting as the dynamic peaks. Retaining their original radiance, the songs in their new settings sparkle with previously unheard qualities. The march entitled *L'Homme à La Moto* flirts with a light-footed swing feel, the uncompromising approach to *99 Luftballons* gives it a sharper edge, a touch of R'n'B lends the world music song *My Heart* a groovy touch and the bluesy *Sea Line Woman* a sense of coolness, while the chamber music version of the folk song *A Case Of You* radiates a quasi-spiritual quality.

The four singers make full use of the entire vocal range. At times soulful, at times scatty or imploring, their voices can resonate like a string quartet or splutter like a beat-out engine. They scream, seduce, argue, cheer and laugh. Nevertheless, their vocal expression always remains natural and serves the song. Since their debut in 2012, Les Brünettes have been developing a more mature sound concept, adding further colour and tempo to their vocal interplay. In the four young artists' own compositions, aspects of their individual personalities shine through which certainly leave one wanting more. Keep those ears perked, the curtain is about to be raised ...