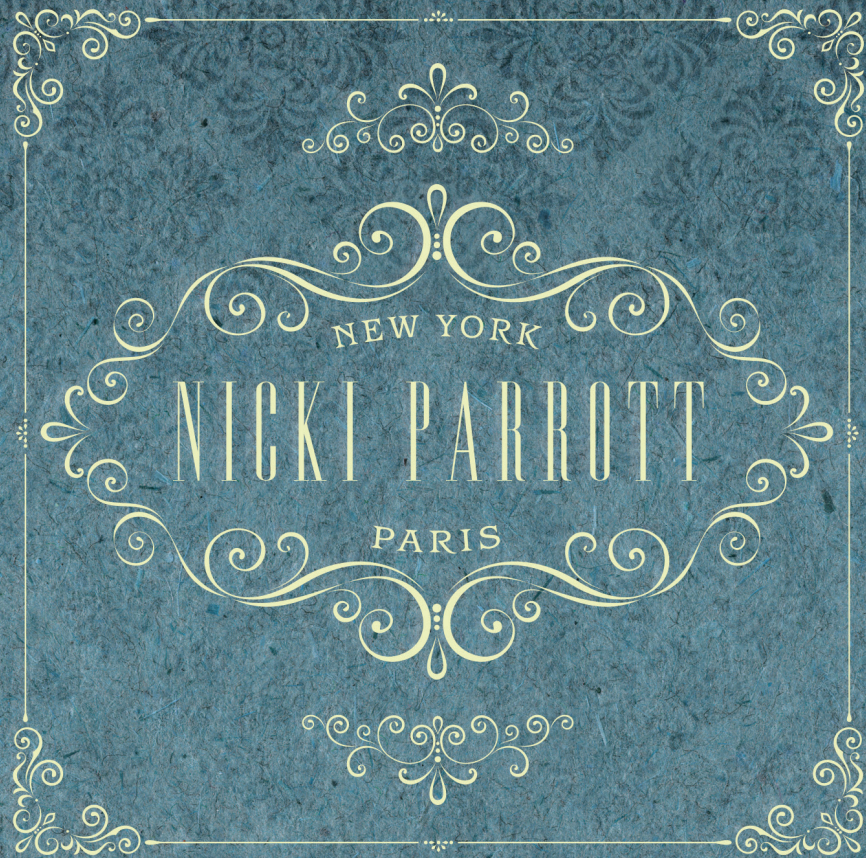




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ARBORS RECORDS PRESENTS

**NICKI PARROTT**  
FROM NEW YORK TO PARIS

FEATURED GUESTS



**HARRY ALLEN**  
HORNS



**JOHN DIMARTINO**  
PIANO



**GIL GOLDSTEIN**  
ACCORDION



**ALVIN ATKINSON**  
DRUMS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **RACHEL DOMBER**, ARBORS RECORDS, ENGINEER **CHRIS SULIT**, TRADING 8'S STUDIOS, PARAMUS NJ, MIXED AND MASTERED **DAVE DARLINGTON**, BASS HIT RECORDING, NEW YORK, NY, LINER NOTES **ROGER CRANE**, DESIGN, ART DIRECTION AND PHOTOGRAPHY **BRIAN WITTMAN** BWITTMAN.COM

**I LOVE PARIS** Cole Porter 3:51 **THERE'S A BOAT DAT'S LEAVIN' SOON FOR NEW YORK** George Gershwin/

Ira Gershwin/DuBose Heyward/Dorothy Heyward 4:27 **I WILL WAIT FOR YOU** Michel Legrand/Norman Gimbel/  
Jacques Demy 5:31 **ON BROADWAY** Barry Mann/Cynthia Weil/Jerry Leiber/Mike Stoller 4:32 **THE BROOKLYN**

**BRIDGE** Sammy Cahn/Jule Styne 4:04 **IF YOU GO AWAY/NE ME QUITTE PAS** Jacques Brel/Rod McKuen

4:29 **UNDER PARIS SKIES** Hubert Giraud/Jean Drejac 4:16 **MANHATTAN** Richard Rogers/Lorenz Hart 4:29

**BROADWAY** Wilbur Bird/Teddy McRae/Henri Woodie 5:10 **APRIL IN PARIS** Vernon Duke/E.Y. Harburg 4:13 **DO**

**YOU MISS NEW YORK?** Dave Frishberg 4:29 **SLAUGHTER ON TENTH AVENUE** Richard Rodgers 1:30 **IF YOU**

**LOVE ME** Édith Piaf/Marguerite Monnot/Geoffrey Parsons 3:59 **LA MER** Charles Trenet 4:01 < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < <

Entries/Entrées

5

Visas

Departures/Sorties

requires praise, namely the high quality of her exemplary instrumental accompaniment. The depth and authenticity of her bass rounds out a quintet of the very best jazz musicians. Particular kudos go to tenor-man Harry Allen who enhances every track (and every album) on which he appears. Pianist John DiMartino, whether swinging or laying down tasty chords, is superb. And you will love the empathetic talents of accordionist Goldstein and the drum work of Atkinson. Individually and collectively—up-tune or ballad—they create a sensitive, supportive backdrop that allows Nicki maximum freedom to illuminate each song. She has performed with these musicians before and the closeness is evident. Gracefully, easily, eloquently, they are always in lock-step with one another.

**From New York to Paris** is not just music to please you. This is music to delight you.

ROGER CRANE, freelance writer

For information on Nicki Parrott and her recordings, visit her website at [nickiparrott.com](http://nickiparrott.com)

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Nicki fell in love with Jacque Brel's 1966 version of *Ne Me Quitte pas (If You Go Away)* and thankfully included this quintessential French song—"We'll sail the sun/We'll ride on the rain/We'll talk to the trees/And worship the wind"—which she sings to John DiMartino's lovely piano accompaniment. We are also *Under Paris Skies*, and Nicki's soft-focus voice is at its loveliest. This song began life as *Sous le Ciel de Paris* and her French sounds perfect to my uneducated ear. Goldstein's accordion provides a distinct Parisian feel.

Other selections include one of the great pleasures of vocal jazz, Dave Frishberg's witty *Do You Miss New York*, as well as a gently swinging version of *La Mer*. Rodgers and Hart's old chestnut *Manhattan*, notable for its stunning use of inner rhyme, is included. Speaking of this song's text, Nicki and her husband Brian Wittman love to devise alternate lyrics to songs and they had fun injecting a few current Manhattan landmarks. (Larry Hart would have approved.) Each of the fourteen songs is beguiling, inviting our attention with charm combined with that all-important jazz element—surprise.

Nicki's performances sound especially fresh and spontaneous, which brings up something else about this album that

JAZZ IS THE BEST FRIEND that American popular song has ever had. Most jazz performers love the music now known as the Great American Songbook. And both are alive and well in ***From New York to Paris***, Nicki Parrott's latest Arbors CD. Bassist, singer, arranger, composer - she has so many facets to her talents that one never knows exactly what to expect when a new album appears. Her recording career has already covered areas of diversity that few other artists have explored. For ten years the Australian-born Nicki was bassist for the legendary guitarist Les Paul, who encouraged her to add singing to her performances. But she is not simply a bassist who, on occasion, sings a song. Rather, she is the complete vocalist and her warm phrasing, intelligent, clear reading of lyrics and ability to swing are evident on her latest CD, just as they were in her previous albums in which she paid tribute to all four seasons, singers (Doris Day, Nat King Cole, Blossom Dearie, the Carpenters) and composers (Burt Bacharach). Nicki also has profound affection for quality material. As I look over her 27 albums (many for Japan's Venus label) I notice there is not a questionable song in the bunch.



## 2

Entries/Entrées

Visas

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This time Nicki has collected fourteen songs that comprise a tale (perhaps romantic) of two cities, namely New York and Paris which, next to her hometown of Sydney, are the two cities in which she has spent the most time. She and accordionist Gil Goldstein open with *I Love Paris* and, in good jazz fashion, they give Cole Porter's old chestnut new life. She includes the well-written but seldom-heard verse, caressing the lyrics in a slow introspective manner "Every-time I look down/On this timeless town." But in the chorus she increases the tempo while her frequent collaborator, the ever-swinging saxophonist Harry Allen, joins the musical conversation. It is all wonderful and a delightful way to kick off this special CD.

Our tale of two cities soon moves to New York and Allen sets a driving tempo on an instrumental version of Gershwin's *There's a Boat Leaving Soon for New York* (from *Porgy and Bess*). Nicki's version of the poetic Legrand-Bergman *I Will Wait for You* is, in a word, mesmerizing. She employs stunning arco bass and her vocal is beautifully enhanced by lyrical accordion and Allen's lovely tenor solo. Clocks appear to stop for several minutes. It is magic time.

## 3

Entries/Entrées

Visas

Departures/Sorties

" If it takes forever I will wait for you.  
For a thousand summers I will wait for you.  
Till you're back beside me, till I'm holding you,  
Till I hear you sigh here in my arms."

We take a stroll down New York's famous Broadway. Nicki-the-vocalist sits this one out but her bass and drummer Alvin Atkinson set a marvelous jazz groove on Barry Mann's famous *On Broadway*. We also travel to an iconic New York bridge. Nicki's vocal on the eminently revivable Styne-Cahn song is sweet and easy and it is an enigma to me why *Brooklyn Bridge* is not better known.

You'll miss her most when you roam  
'Cause you'll think of her and think of home  
The good old Brooklyn Bridge"

In the spring our romantic traveler returns to France and we hear Vernon Duke's *April in Paris*, a beloved GAS entry that fits nicely in Nicki's two-city theme. The band opens with the celebrated (in jazz circles) Count Basie fake-out ending, that durable "one-more-once" riff. (Speaking of the clever charts, all arrangements are by Nicki.)

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