



## PRESS RELEASE

### Everybody Says Don't Mark Jennett



Jazzizit Records: Cat No. JITCD1462  
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*“This is a welcome release from a male singer who thankfully sideswipes the deluge of post Sinatra crooners - yet homage to the great swinging vocal tradition is ever present “ - Ian Shaw April 2014.*

**“Soulful and Exuberant” - Time Out**

**Album Launch  
Tuesday, 16th September  
St. James Theatre, 12 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JA**

**Mark Jennett - Vocals**  
**Geoff Gascoyne - Bass/Producer/Arranger**  
**Rob Barron - Piano/Keyboard**  
**Sebastian de Krom - Drums**  
**Martin Shaw - Trumpet**  
**Andy Panayi - Saxes/Flute**

A regular on the London scene for the last few years, Mark has been working with renowned musician and producer Geoff Gascoyne on a set of sophisticated reinterpretations of 20<sup>th</sup> century standards from writers as diverse as Cole Porter and Randy Newman. Geoff says “Mark’s unaffected tone, warm sound and restrained emotionalism complement the arrangements beautifully.”

The arrangements encompass energetic swing and soulful balladry while embracing a range of styles from gospel and hip hop to bossa nova and even Motown-inflected pop. Coolly updated show tunes rub shoulders with radically altered 60s pop favourites.

Cole Porter’s ‘Just One of Those Things’ is reborn as an aching jazz ballad while Bacharach and David’s ‘Wives and Lovers’ exchanges it’s original waltz-time for a jagged 5/4; the title track places Sondheim in an up-tempo swing setting and Gershwin’s ‘How Long Has This Been Going On’ receives a sensuous hip hop workout; two lesser known Jim Webb songs are paired with a driving Pat Metheny-style groove. ‘Oh Look At Me Now’ is a straight ahead voice and bass duet, ‘Train In The Distance’ receives a wistful ballad

reading and 'Slow Boat To China' is sophisticated jazz pop. Lerner and Lowe's 'Hurry It's Lovely Up Here' unfolds bewitchingly in a gentle Latin arrangement while another Bacharach tune, 'Are You There With Another Boy', acquires a driving, mesmeric pulse which matches the urgency of the lyrics.

Throughout the album Mark's classic approach to jazz singing matches the subtle complexity of Geoff's arrangements in which musical and emotional values are equally well served. As well as being in great demand as a musician, Geoff Gascoyne is well known for his production and arranging work with Jamie Cullum and others. Most recently he produced Jacqui Dankworth's acclaimed *Live To Love* album.

**Anita Wardell says - "Mark Jennett is a unique story teller and, regardless of genre of song, his interpretation is always fresh, new and exciting. Wonderful, compelling listening."**

## **Biography**

Mark's first album, *The Way I Am*, was warmly received by the critics. His second release demonstrates just how much he has developed as an artist in the intervening years. *Everybody Says Don't* should please his existing fans and win him many more.

Mark has continually worked on the London jazz scene for several years with appearances at Ronnie Scotts, the Vortex ("**regulars lapped it up**" – **Evening Standard**") and other leading venues. He has performed throughout the UK with his own trio, as well as making appearances with a number of big bands and performs regularly with fellow singer Carol Grimes.

Quotes for Mark's first album "**THE WAY I AM**"

"A bright debut ... He delivers on a convincing set of standards with his supple turn of phrase." - **Jazzwise**

"These songs have seldom received more sensitive treatments, their every word made to count, their every internal rhyme subtly emphasised, their wry humour and wit skilfully drawn from them." - **Chris Parker, Vortex Jazz**

Mark also teaches vocal technique, has led workshops with college students and adults and has worked with groups with Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease.

**Mark Jennett is available for interview/pics available on request**

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