

## Renee Olstead, vocalist

There's bound to be a bit of a disconnect trying to match the songs you hear on Renee Olstead's new album with the artist who sings them. It's amazing that this young artist sings some of the most beloved standards in the American songbook, from "Summertime" to "Someone To Watch Over Me," "What A Difference A Day Makes" to "Sentimental Journey," with a vocal style that speaks of decades of singing experience.

She performs with all the panache, polish and personal flair that has resonated in the repertoires of everyone from Billie to Judy and beyond. Simply put, it takes a lot of confidence, not to mention chutzpah, to take on the classics and make them your own.

Now, imagine accomplishing all that and more at the tender age of fifteen. Small wonder Renee Olstead turns heads and wins hearts whenever and wherever she steps in front of a microphone. But what may start as sheer surprise that a voice so resonant and revealing could come from an artist so young, quickly turns to utter delight at the stylish sensibility and consummate craftsmanship of this Texas-born prodigy.

Born in Houston, the only child of creatively supportive parents, Renee grew up in a diverse musical atmosphere and remembers Celine Dion as her first CD purchase. With no formal musical training, the youngster was constantly singing along to the radio, adding her own spunky spin to the hits of the day, and quickly found herself appearing in local musical theater productions and talent showcases. But music was only one element in the mix. A natural actor with a knack for lighting up screens both big and small, Renee has been in front of audiences almost as long as she has been singing, appearing in such major motion pictures as *The Insider* with Russell Crowe, *End Of Days* with Arnold Schwarzenegger and *13 Going On 30* with Jennifer Garner. Equally impressive is the young entertainer's television credits, which most recently include a co-starring role in the CBS-TV comedy *Still Standing*, now beginning its third season.

After relocating to Los Angeles to accommodate the shooting schedule for *Still Standing* and even while keeping up her studies with home schooling courses, Renee found time to perform with a local jazz and swing band at such well known Hollywood hotspots as *The Madison* and *The Derby*. When it became clear that her commitments were conflicting she decided to make a CD to commemorate her stint with the group, cutting several of the songs that were later selected for her major label debut. The result eventually found its way to the desk of David Foster, the multi-Grammy® winning artist, producer and talent scout, justly famed for knowing a good thing when he hears it, including Renee's early role model, Celine Dion.