

Garretson & Gorodetsky

For over twenty years, from their releases “Webaworld” to “Puttanesca,” the songwriting team of Weba Garretson and Ralph Gorodetsky has been steadily refining their craft. Since they sometimes perform as a duo, singing and playing songs, there might be an immediate tendency to lump them into the singer songwriter/folk music category, which wouldn’t be untrue, but wouldn’t be the whole truth. Some of the most interesting art in every medium has never fit into easily defined categories. While it is true that Garretson & Gorodetsky work with what could be called traditional, popular song structures, they often imbue the recognizable format of “song” with quirky, subversive elements borrowed from sources that people wouldn’t normally mix.

Garretson & Gorodetsky dance around the dictum that popular art can also be interesting and that aspects of Avant Garde (i.e. challenging art) can be popular. Imagine if Phil Ochs and John Cage went out for sonic cocktails together, or if Laura Nyro stayed up all night listening to Bartok and reading Thich Nhat Hanh.

“The group's most basic configuration spotlighted the strengths on which they hang their fuller arrangements: imagination, tight vocal harmonies and contrapuntal interplay, with Garretson's spare keyboards bouncing off Gorodetsky's complex guitar lines. From duo to quintet, each G&G incarnation offers a vision worth seeing.”

– Greg Burk, of MetalJazz

MY SKIN CRAVES SOIL (2015)

“I adore this..It’s like musical Wallace Stevens gone Canterbury prog. Very beautiful. Weba sings like a very sophisticated bird.”

–Richard Gehr

“Garretson & Gorodetsky combine folk tunes, pop ideas, blues riffs and jazz harmonies to create songs that are haunting as well as humorous. Their music explores the fragility of existence, whether it’s a garden slug or a scrub jay.”

–C.A.R.S. Pick recommended

“Delightfully charming, witty, funny, arty, colorful, jazzy, poppy, rocky, engaging, challenging performance yesterday by Garretson & Gorodetsky..Really great to see music at once ambitious and inviting as part of this community presentation.”

–Steve Hochman, Facebook

TUNNEL OF TIME (2022)

“Garretson & Gorodetsky, “Tunnel of Time” (Catasonic Records). Just as in any time tunnel, you leap into the whoosh machine of singer Weba Garretson and guitarist Ralph Gorodetsky and never know where you’ll pop out. In Brazil pondering epistemology? In Mexico hoisting your ruffled dress? With the Everly Brothers a-sobbin’ your devotion? Click-clackin’ down the hillbilly railroad tracks? G&G’s most fully realized and most scrupulously recorded effort finds the L.A. duo and friends contemplating solitude and dealing out something for everyone, our faves including “Lesbian Lasagna” (lurching saxjazz about Echo Park gentrification), “Dusk” (dark flutjazz reminiscent of Mingus’ “Eclipse”) and the waltz “That’s the Way Love Is” by MetalJazz’s Greg Burk (Ralph’s violet-hearted arrangement choked us up).”

– Greg Burk, [Metal Jazz July 1 2022](#)

Previous Releases by Weba Garretson

DON’T BE AFRAID by The Eastside Sinfonietta (2003)

“With Garretson as an arresting, latter-day Lotte Lenya, the songs--sour and sensuous--seemed just about perfect for our own times, for the strange world of performance art and also for updating with winds, electric keyboard, drums and bass...Garretson is a decent singer who puts across a lyric strongly (which also could have been said of Lenya).”

–Mark Swed, **Los Angeles Times**

“Vocalist Weba Garretson gives Lotte Lenya a run for her money, reaching deep into our psyches and hearts with her voice.”

–Louise Steinman, **Los Angeles Public Library**

WELCOME TO WEBAWORLD (1995)

“Her singing voice is pure buttah--sultry true, almost delicate--yet her speaking voice is full of brass, punctuating the songs with powerful, emotional bursts.”

–Natalie Nichols, **LA Reader**

“Her voice, suave and sultry, is one into which you can fall, and she works the audience like an old-time chanteuse with a bearing that is almost pornographic, but with taste and conviction in the moves. Watching her, listening to her, you know that nightclubs deserve a healthy comeback.”

–Sasha Anawalt, **KCRW**

“What keeps her on the top of her art is her ability to walk the fine line between danger and comfort. Garretson plays close to the edge, but the fortunate audience is cushioned by her commanding vocal talent and absolute assuredness on stage.”

-Tom Provenzano, LA Weekly