

# CABARET SCENES

YOUR NIGHTCLUB GUIDE APRIL 2009 \$4.00 USA

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**HILARY ANN FELDMAN**  
**High Standards**

Davenport's, Chicago, IL, Mar. 1, 2009

Hilary Ann Feldman's *High Standards* is well-performed cabaret. It is also a fascinating exploration of "standards." "They All Laughed" is divinely interpreted (arguably the best track on Feldman's excellent debut CD, *Taking Flight*). Yes,



Feldman lands clean high notes in "Summertime"'s obligato but when she sings simply from the heart, we encounter a compelling performer. "They All Laughed" combines sass, sexiness, and honesty in exquisite balance. "I Could Have Danced All Night" demonstrates Feldman's combined skills: she delivers controlled crescendos, yet passionately conveys the wonder of that dance. With modern songs, one wonders whether Feldman's selections are "standards". However, she suggests that each of us selects our own standards—songs that touch us musically and emotionally. Steven Lutvak's "The Dinner Party" is something of a tough sell, though. While it has some charm, its humor is perhaps tepid and may not resonate with a typical Midwest audience. (As Feldman has grown into an energetic performer, it would be good to see her take a shot at big comedy.) Feldman's tender encore, a wistful "When the Red, Red Robin Comes Bob, Bob, Bobbin' Along," shows how standards live on through new perspectives.

— **Carla Gordon**