

# San Francisco Chronicle

## CD review: Larkin Gayl, "Two Hands"

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At first listen, it may seem easy to compare **Larkin Gayl** to some other great singers. On this cut, she suggests Corinne Bailey Rae, but on the next, you're thinking McGarrigle sisters, or maybe Maria Muldaur. By the third cut on her lovely, surprise-filled first album, "Two Hands," you realize that **Gayl** happily defies easy comparison. She readily adapts her fluidly gorgeous soprano to a country swing on "Impossible," gives it a soft jazz lilt on "Warrior," a soft-rock sway on "A Life of Everything." **Gayl** is a double threat, both a great singer and a fine songwriter. Nine of the 10 cuts on the album will knock you out. The 10th is timely and, heaven knows, offers an unimpeachable message, but **Gayl**'s musical homage to same-sex marriage, "I Do," doesn't measure up to the other songs on the album.

**LARKIN GAYL**

TWO HANDS

2008 ABOUT RECORDS