

*Blue Monday*  
LETIZIA GAMBÌ



## LINER NOTES LETIZIA BY GIL GOLDSTEIN

In the early 90's I had the good fortune to start working with **Lenny White**. First, as a drummer on my recording for Blue Note Records, called "City of Dreams" and then on two projects where Lenny was both the drummer and the artistic director: Rachelle Ferrell's album "First Instrument" and the groundbreaking "Manhattan Project" which featured Wayne Shorter, Stanley Clark and Michel Petrucciani. From that point on, my musical world was enriched and I felt elevated and transformed from the experiences.

In the case of **Letizia Gambi**, I've seen a similar transformation and growth for her in the two projects that she and Lenny have joined forces on, first **"Introducing"** and now **"Blue Monday"**. Letizia's **Neapolitan** soul and spirit inhabits every breath and Lenny has created the most challenging and inventive environments for her, featuring a who's who of musicians from the New York music scene. The fusion of styles creates a sparkling chemical reaction that transcends the individual elements that created it and a new musical entity emerges, that is Letizia Gambi.

The music selected for **"Blue Monday"** is drawn from both the **Italian and jazz traditions** plus original creations written by Letizia & Lenny. Starting straight out of the gate with an ingenious medley of **"Sweet Georgia Brown"** and **Jackie McClean's "Dig"** fused with a **Neapolitan** chant which is inspired by **The Washerwoman's song** from the opera **La Gatta Cenerentola** by **Roberto De Simone**. The combination is intoxicating, and Lenny and Letizia pull off some hip trading in the middle of this complex stylistic synthesis.



Lenny White and Letizia Gambi

The next song is **Joe Henderson's "Recordame"** which Lenny and Letizia have written lyrics for and titled it with its English translation **"True Love, Remember Me"**. A new character for this song appears, hinting at Brazilian but always anchored by jazz, particularly in the great solos by **Ron Carter** and **Dave Stryker**.

The tempo relaxes with **"Without You"** which is the first original and is dedicated to **Pino Daniele**, the great Neapolitan songwriter who died January 2015. His influence on the music of **Naples** will go on forever, just as the wind blows from the sea into every corner of that city. **Ron Carter, Donald Vega and Lenny White** are this song's musical messengers and Letizia, through her lyrics recalls images of Daniele's songs and those who know his music will deeply get them.

Next up is **"Que Sera Sera"** which is the freshest arrangement I've ever heard of that classic song. Lenny changed the form and created the hippest figures for myself on accordion and **Hailey Nilswanger** on soprano saxophone who comments throughout Letizia's lilting vocals, which transforms this song to a new level.

**"Under the Moon"**, an original, recalls a classic Italian love song, and Letizia finds the sweet spot on this track featuring a thoughtful and soulful piano solo by **Helen Sung** and the conversational bass of **John Benitez**.

The next song is **"But Not for me"** where Lenny has transported the classic **Ahmad Jamal** arrangement and Letizia has transformed his solo into a virtuosic vocal journey for herself, **Ron Carter** and **Donald Vega** who play and sing it totally as their own.

The title track **"Blue Monday"** has a quality that evokes the best in modern songwriting and could appear in a set of any of the best popular composers. Letizia's lyrics speak of the connection of all people and that there is a common goal among us for good. **"Forever starts today"** as the change for good begins anew daily.

**"Back to Black"** is taken from the **Amy Winehouse** book and is given a modern tango conception with the addition of cello and **Hector del Curto's** authentic bandoneon commentary. Letizia's version is a combination of anger, passion and pathos.

A scorching ballad is **"You'll Say Tomorrow"** written by the great Italian composer **Lelio Luttazzi** in 1959 with the title **"Perchè Domani"** and it was sung in the original version by none other than **Sophia Loren**. Letizia's adaptation is the first English version ever recorded and exposes a true classic from the Italian repertoire and the unforgettable Lelio.

Another new creation in the ballad tradition follows **"When You Were Here"** where I get to flex my orchestration muscle and try to evoke the inspiring musicians like **Morricone and Rota** who have inspired all of us so much. No solos intervene as Letizia and **Nick Moroch's** haunting guitar carry the story from beginning to end, and we watch it unfold like a film.

The tango spirit resurfaces with **"Skin to Skin"** with a contribution by **Letizia's mother** who wrote the verse's melody. The song pulses keeping the story moving forward and this time I am doing my best bandoneon impressions on the accordion along with Tom Guarna's beautiful acoustic guitar and again Letizia is the sole sensual voice as we find our way to a soulful groove at the end.

The short and sweet version of **“Sulo Pe’ Parlà”** is a duet with **Nick Moroch** on acoustic guitar. They follow each other effortlessly to make this a sweet moment and a respite from the rich orchestrations that surround it in the program. This **Pino Daniele** song forms a matching set with the piano based setting of **“Perchè Domani”** which we heard earlier in the new English version. This time it’s in Italian and again **Helen Sung and Jisoo Ok** supply the perfect accompaniment for this new classic version.

This is the second recording that Lenny and Letizia have done together and the collaboration just keeps getting stronger and yielding better and stronger results. I’ve had the pleasure of playing accordion and piano and contributing some string orchestrations to both projects. But at the center of each, is Letizia’s demonstrative or incredibly sensitive lyric style combined with clever and soulful arrangements, which draw upon both genres as well as a whole world of musical influence. She makes every story her own and we relive her **mediterranean** soul and **jazz** experience in each of the 13 stories she tells, and we hang on every breath she takes.

### **GIL GOLDSTEIN**

*Gil Goldstein is a pianist and accordionist and has long performance histories with artists including Bobby McFerrin, Pat Martino, Jim Hall, and Billy Cobham, to name just a few. As an arranger, he worked closely with Gil Evans for 7 years in his band and became a his apprentice, asked by Quincy Jones to reconstruct his arrangements for a concert with Miles Davis. He has arranged and produced for so many leading jazz and pop artists, including Milton Nascimento, Wallace Roney, Chris Botti, Paul Simon, and Esperanza Spalding. His work in this field has yielded 5 Grammy awards and 12 nominations.*



Gil Goldstein and Letizia Gambi

01

**Letizia Gambi**  
**Helen Sung**  
**John Benitez**  
**Lenny White**  
**Andrea Valentini**

**SWEET GEORGIA BROWN/DIG**

(B. Bernie/M. Pinkard/K. Casey/J. McClean)  
Neapolitan lyrics Vincenzo Gambi & Letizia Gambi  
Arr by **Lenny White**

vocal  
piano  
bass  
drums  
bass drum

02

**Letizia Gambi**  
**Dave Stryker**  
**Donald Vega**  
**Ron Carter**  
**Lenny White**

**TRUE LOVE REMEMBER ME (RECORDAME)**  
(Joe Henderson music, L. White and L. Gambi lyrics)  
Arr by **Lenny White**

vocal  
guitar  
piano  
bass  
drums

03

**Letizia Gambi**  
**Donald Vega**  
**Ron Carter**  
**Lenny White**

**WITHOUT YOU / SENZ'E TE**  
(L. White, L. Gambi, Chinese Music B.M.I.)  
In memory Of the great Pino Daniele  
Arr by **Lenny White**

vocal  
piano  
bass  
drums

04

**Letizia Gambi**  
**Tom Guarna**  
**Gil Goldstein**  
**Pete Levin**  
**Hailey Niswanger**  
**Daryl Johns**  
**Lenny White**

**QUE SERA SERA (WHATEVER WILL BE)**  
(J. Livingston/R. Evans)  
Arr by **Lenny White** and **Gil Goldstein**

vocal  
guitar  
accordion  
keyboards  
saxophone  
bass  
drums

05

**Letizia Gambi**  
**Helen Sung**  
**Gil Goldstein**  
**John Benitez**  
**Lenny White**

**UNDER THE MOON**  
(L. White/L. Gambi, Chinese Music B.M.I.)  
Arr by **Lenny White**

vocal  
piano  
accordion  
bass  
drums

*Tracks 1-2-3 Vocals recorded @ Audio Piranha by Pablo Arraya - Recorded and mixed @ Teaneck Sound by Dave Kowalski*

*Tracks 4 Vocals recorded @ Audio Piranha by Pablo Arraya - Recorded @ Trading 8's by Chris Sulit -  
Mixed @ Teaneck Sound by Dave Kowalski*

*Tracks 5 Vocals recorded @ Audio Piranha by Pablo Arraya - Recorded and mixed @ Teaneck Sound by  
Dave Kowalski*

06

**Letizia Gambi**  
**Donald Vega**  
**Ron Carter**  
**Lenny White**

**BUT NOT FOR ME**

(George & Ira Gershwin )

Arr by **Ahmad Jamal** adaptation by **Lenny White**

vocal  
piano  
bass  
drums

07

**Letizia Gambi**  
**Sam Williams**  
**Helen Sung**  
**Nick Moroch**  
**Jisoo OK**  
**John Benitez**  
**Lenny White**

**BLUE MONDAY**

(L.White/L.Gambi - Chinese Music B.M.I.)

Arr by **Lenny White** and **Helen Sung**

vocal  
backing vocals  
piano  
ac guitar  
cello  
bass  
drums

08

**Letizia Gambi**  
**Helen Sung**  
**Hector Del Curto**  
**Jisoo Ok**  
**John Benitez**  
**Lenny White**

**BLACK TO BLACK**

(Amy Weinhouse/Mark Ronson)

Arr by **Lenny White**

vocal  
piano  
bandoneon  
cello  
bass  
drums



**Ron Carter** and **Letizia Gambi**

# 09

**Letizia Gambi**  
**Helen Sung**  
**Jisoo Ok**  
**John Benitez**  
**Lenny White**

## **YOU'LL SAY TOMORROW (PERCHÈ DOMANI)**

(Lelio Luttazzi - Radiofilmusica srl)  
Arr by Helen Sung - English lyrics by Letizia Gambi  
(courtesy of **Fondazione Lelio Luttazzi**)



vocal  
piano  
cello  
bass  
drums

# 10

**Letizia Gambi**  
**Helen Sung**  
**Nick Moroch**  
**Jisoo OK**  
**John Benitez**

## **WHEN YOU WERE HERE**

(L.White/L.Gambi - Chinese Music B.M.I.)  
Arr by **Lenny White** - Orchestration by **Gil Goldstein**

vocal  
piano  
acc guitar  
cello  
bass

# 11

**Letizia Gambi**  
**Tom Guarna**  
**Gil Goldstein**  
**Daryl Johns**  
**Lenny White**

## **SKIN TO SKIN**

(L.White/L.Gambi/Susy Sica - Chinese Music B.M.I.)  
Arr by **Lenny White**

vocal  
guitar  
piano / accordion  
bass  
drums/ percussion

# 12

**Letizia Gambi**  
**Nick Moroch**

## **SULO PE' PARLÀ** (Pino Danele - Emi) Arr by **Lenny White**

vocal  
guitar

# 13

**Letizia Gambi**  
**Helen Sung**  
**Jisoo Ok**

## **PERCHE' DOMANI**

(Lelio Luttazzi - Radiofilmusica srl)

vocal  
piano  
cello

Tracks 9-10 Vocals recorded @ Audio Piranha by Pablo Array - Recorded and mixed@ Teaneck Sound by Dave Kowalski

Track 11 Vocals recorded @ Audio Piranha by Pablo Arraya - Additional recording @ Trading 8's by Chris Sulit - Recorded and mixed@ Teaneck Sound by Dave Kowalski

Tracks 12-13 Vocals recorded @ Audio Piranha by Pablo Arraya - Recorded and mixed@ Teaneck Sound by Dave Kowalski





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“ Come witness the growth of a  
future Icon.

Lenny White ”

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Blue

Monday



# Blue Monday

## LETIZIA GAMBÌ

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|----|--|-------|
| 01 | <b>Sweet Georgia Brown / Dig</b>           | 02:58 |
| 02 | <b>True Love Remember Me (Recordame)</b>   | 05:14 |
| 03 | <b>Without You / Senz'e Te</b>             | 04:56 |
| 04 | <b>Que Sera Sera (Whatever Will be)</b>    | 03:56 |
| 05 | <b>Under The Moon</b>                      | 05:11 |
| 06 | <b>But Not For Me</b>                      | 04:33 |
| 07 | <b>Blue Monday</b>                         | 04:19 |
| 08 | <b>Back To Black</b>                       | 04:40 |
| 09 | <b>You'll Say Tomorrow (Perchè Domani)</b> | 05:20 |
| 10 | <b>When You Were Here</b>                  | 04:28 |
| 11 | <b>Skin To Skin</b>                        | 05:35 |
| 12 | <b>Sulo Pe' Parla'</b>                     | 01:11 |
| 13 | <b>Perche' Domani</b>                      | 03:19 |