



Carole FREDERICKS
Couleurs et Parfums

These precious recordings represent not only an extremely adventurous musical career but also the end of that career, tragically cut short by the death of Carole Fredericks at just 49 from a heart attack in 2001.

I've listened to this CD, only her second solo effort, countless times and what still amazes me is the fluid grace with which Carole moved from one "genre" to another, although of course it was

all one music to her. Just listen to her sultry soul/gospel intonation at the start of "Qu'est-ce qui t'amène", the samples and blues rap (why does rap sound so sophisticated "en francais"?) on "J'ai le sang blues" anticipating today's "nu-bluz" by ten years, the duo in the main Senegalese language Wolof with Nicole Amovin on "Kaai Djallema/Time After Time" (yes, the Cyndi Lauper hit) and the West African reggae of "Respire", very akin to the Wass reggae of Askia Modibo although in fact penned by Jean-Jaques Goldman. And that's just the first four tracks! The remainder of the CD is yet more in that vein with Carole even turning her hand to a duet with French boy band Poetic Lover on "Personne ne saurait" and as if that wasn't enough to convince you just wait till you hear the late-hours soul ballad "Tu es là". There is no filler on this CD just a huge variety of sounds – just what would she have been capable of had she lived?

Listen to this CD with open ears and, more importantly, an open heart and you will understand how Carole [Fredericks] has touched so many people through her life and ultimately through the lasting legacy of her music - *Tant qu'elle chante, elle vit... As long as she sings, she lives.*

Phil Aldridge
BBC Radio in the South Blues and World Music Hours