

# BACK STAGE

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THE PERFORMING ARTS WEEKLY

## *Bistro Bits*

By John Hoglund

Rarely have I played anyone's new album as much as **Dane Vannatter's** new release, "Flight" (Dreamworld). Few male vocalists have such colorful shadings and subtle nuances in their voices. This, my friends, is a voice to be reckoned with. He sounds like a perfect combination of the old and the new. He has Mel Torme's jazz sensibilities and Tom Andersen's fluent phrasing on the most sensitive lyric line, making his the perfect vocal instrument for classic chestnuts like "I'm Glad There Is You" and "Day In Day Out," and gorgeous readings of Elton John's "Empty Garden" and Joni Mitchell's unforgettable "Night Ride Home." All cuts are so potently delivered in a uniquely expressive, haunting tenor that comes right from the heart.

Extravagant sensuality illuminates Frank Loesser's "Warm All Over," And Vannatter's gifted interpretive abilities shine on the album's title cut, by Craig Carnelia; having heard "Flight" many times in cabaret, I believe this is the definitive version, making all others moot. (Too many singers miss the mark on this song.)

Every once in awhile I have the opportunity to experience a thrilling, exciting new voice with unlimited potential. Such is the case with Vannatter and this stunning new CD. Now let's hope this Boston-based singer finds a New York home and realizes the potential he has.



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