



The biggest little cabaret magazine in the world.

November 1999

Playing to a near-capacity room at the Regattabar in Cambridge, Massachusetts, **Dane Vannatter** performed two sets that displayed his incredible talents. Vannatter, a favorite in the greater Boston area, has a style that comfortably fuses elements of both cabaret music and jazz. There is a respect for the lyric that is the hallmark of cabaret. But his jazz-influenced phrasing often gives his songs a looser, more natural feel. He is able to make each song his own, putting his personal stamp on it without sacrificing its original intent. Vannatter's repertoire showed his versatility. He shifted effortlessly from standards like "Blue Skies," "The Nearness of You" and "Day In - Day Out" to the pure pop sounds of Stevie Wonder's "Overjoyed" and The Main Ingredient's "Just Don't Want to Be Lonely." The singer also balanced high-energy, swinging numbers like "Small Day Tomorrow" and "Mildred, Won't You Behave," with spare, understated readings of songs such as "I Cover the Waterfront" and Leonard Cohen's complex "Famous Blue Raincoat."

Vannatter's tenor voice is a fluid and expressive instrument, as stunning in the choir-boy purity of his high notes as it is in the richly textured, full-bodied sounds that he produces in his lower register. His big, tour-de-force numbers (the title tracks from his two CDs) showcased both the delicacy and power that distinguished his singing. "Here's to Life," with its carpe diem philosophy, was dedicated to all dreamers. When the singer reached deep inside himself to pull up that glorious, final note, the effect was thrilling. Vannatter made Craig Carnelia's "Flight" resonate with the rich imagery of its lyrics and its soaring melody. His dramatic handling of the number conveyed the urgency of the human spirit's need to transcend its physical and temporal trappings and sail, unfettered, above earthbound complacency.

Dane Vannatter feels his music deeply and is able to communicate those feelings vividly to his audience. One would be hard-pressed to find an indifferent listener in the crowd. He's that good.

- B. Douglas Swiszc



**Avitus Productions**

300 Lynn Shore Drive #807, Lynn, MA 01902

tel: 781-598-9156 • fax: 781-595-8445 • e-mail: danevannatter@aol.com

[www.danevannatter.com](http://www.danevannatter.com)