

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VERONA CHARD
jazz vocalist

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From *wicked fairy* to *wicked vocals* she gives you **FEVER**

FEVER album release date: **Wednesday 21 July 2010 at the 606 Club, Chelsea, London**

"One of the best versions of *Fever* I've ever heard.... Great voice and looking forward to hearing more"
Brian Soundy - UK Jazz Radio – May 2010

'The excellent Verona Chard' – *Jim Kennedy, The Stage, January 2010*

The release of her debut album, **FEVER**, sees vocalist **Verona Chard** perform a wonderful mix of passionate sultry jazz and inspired vocal acrobatics, showcasing her 'beautiful voice' (The Scotsman) and unique take on jazz, blues, funk and original material.

Taking as its main theme and inspiration the words of William Shakespeare, **FEVER** features arrangements of music by John Dankworth, Galt MacDermot, Rodgers and Hart, Cole Porter, Stephen Sondheim, Humphrey Lyttelton, Hirsch and Kaplan, Elton John, Ann Ronell plus Cooley and Davenport.

Verona says:

'I decided to research music for this project after finding an LP by Sir John Dankworth in a charity shop. His 1964 album *Shakespeare and All That Jazz* was inspired by the writings of William Shakespeare and features superb vocals by Dame Cleo Laine. It set me thinking that there must be a wealth of material to explore and I haven't been disappointed! My research will continue, but what I've found so far has also spurred me on to write my own songs and lyrics.'

An exciting combination of highly trained vocalist, actor and lyricist, Verona made her stage debut at the age of five. Growing up in Bath, she excelled in all things creative, winning a number of music and dance festivals. She trained at the Royal Academy of Music and Trinity Laban, but whilst enjoying a highly successful career as a singer and actor, realised that jazz was her abiding passion. She made an impressive professional jazz debut alongside Humphrey Lyttelton when she guested on his *Sad Sweet Songs & Crazy Rhythms* album in 2005.

CD available at www.veronachard.com, www.cdbaby.com, www.mbopmegastore.com and major outlets

FEVER will be launched with a show at the 606 Club, 90 Lots Road, Chelsea, London, SW10 0QD

Verona will be backed by many of the musicians who played on the recording, including **Alex Stanford** (piano and musical co-arranger), **Mark Fletcher** (drums), **Kevin Robinson** (trumpet), **Charlotte Glasson** (sax), **Ray Wordsworth** (trombone) and **Fiona Clifton-Welker** (harp), and will also be joined by **Alec Dankworth** (bass). BBC Jazz Award-winning saxophonist **Alan Barnes** joins her later on the tour.

FEVER album tour – dates and venues:

Wednesday 21 July, 7.30pm	<i>CD launch</i> – 606 Club, Chelsea, London, SW10 0QD
Sunday August TBC, 8pm	Hugo's, London NW6 - Duo
Friday 27 August, 2pm	The Jazz Bar, Edinburgh, EH1 1HR
Saturday 28 August, 2pm	The Jazz Bar, Edinburgh, EH1 1HR
Sunday 29 August, 2pm	The Jazz Bar, Edinburgh, EH1 1HR
Thursday 9 September, 8pm	Café Chai, Ealing, London, W5 2NP
Friday 10 September, 8pm	the cornerHOUSE, Surbiton, KT6 7SB
Saturday 18 September, 7.30pm	The Old Joint Stock, Birmingham, B2 5NY
Sunday 19 September, 8pm	The VoiceBox, Derby, DE1 1JQ (+ day workshop)
Friday 24 September, 2pm & 7.45pm	Library Theatre, Luton, LU1 2NG
Thursday 30 September, 7.45pm	St James Wine Vaults, Bath, BA1 2TW
Friday 1 October, 9pm	The Bear Hotel, Devizes, SN10 1HS
Saturday 9 October, 8pm	Ropetackle Arts Centre, Shoreham by Sea, BN43 5EG (with Alan Barnes, sax)
Monday 18 October, 8pm	Pomegranate Theatre, Chesterfield, S41 7TX
Wednesday 20 October 8pm	The Spice of Life, London, W1D 5NA

Singers Jazz Workshops led by Claire Martin, Verona Chard and Ian Shaw

Saturday 5 June, 10.30am–5pm
Saturday 11 September

606 Club, Chelsea, London, SW10 0QD
Ropetackle Arts Centre, Shoreham by Sea, BN43 5EG

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