

CABARETSCENES

Jaye Maynard

Bird Amongst the Blossom

Sterling's Upstairs at the Federal
North Hollywood, CA



Blossom Dearie had such a distinctive sound that it would be pointless to try to imitate her in a tribute show. Jaye Maynard wisely did not go down that road. As a youth, Maynard discovered Blossom by hearing one of her Verve albums. That eventually led to meeting her after one of her appearances and disappointment when Blossom told her that the *Blossom Dearie Songbook* she was hoping to acquire was out of print. Finally able to locate a copy, Maynard delved into the material and put together this show, saluting Blossom's music and her collaborators' lyrics.

Maynard presented just enough biographical information to give a picture of Blossom's life and personality without making the evening a recitation of dates and facts. The songs gave her a good framework from which to operate. Maynard and Sandra Harris reworked "Sweet Georgie Fame" into "Sweet Blossom Dame" to set the tone for the salute. The singer delivered delightful versions of "Hey John," "Sweet Surprise" and "Inside a Silent Tear" and other Blossom staples. Closing with a touching "I Like You, You're Nice," Maynard accomplished what she had set out to do—convey her love of Blossom and her music and offer her own personal take on the material.

Musical Director Nick Fryman and Chris Conner on bass provided sensitive accompaniment.

Les Traub

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