

# CABARETSCENES

## Jaye Maynard

### Bird Amongst the Blossom

M Bar  
Hollywood, CA



Jaye Maynard is the “bird” amongst the blossom and Blossom Dearie is the “blossom,” and they make beautiful music together.

Maynard is an ardent fan of Dearie’s, and her tribute to the late composer was filled with a variety of musical gems, sung to perfection by Maynard in her own voice, which ranges from soft and gentle to belting and powerful, but always controlled and effortless. Only once did she try to duplicate Dearie’s high-pitched vocal sound — at the end of an amusing version of “Sweet Georgie Fame” (Dearie/Sandra Harris), retitled “Sweet Blossom Dame,” featuring Maynard’s own original lyrics.

Maynard was sharp in delivering the delightful lyrics to “I’m Hip” (Bob Dorough/Dave Frishberg) — one of the few songs in the show not composed by Dearie — and her version of the lilting “Winchester in Apple Blossom Time” (lyrics by Walter Birchett, Dearie’s brother) was sultry and powerful.

She also showed off her wide vocal range on a pair of Dearie compositions: “Sweet Surprise” (lyrics by Jim Council) — sung softly, with a lot of expression; and “Inside a Silent Tear” (lyrics by Mahriah Blackwolf), which featured an elegant, smooth delivery with a honey-tinged edge that made Maynard’s take on it sound especially genuine.

She clearly had fun with “I’m Shadowing You” (lyrics by Johnny Mercer), sung with a straight face despite the sense of clever irony contained in the words, and she was at her kittenish best in a nice interpretation of “Peel Me a Grape (Frishberg).

Maynard thanked her audience with a sweet take on “I Like You, You’re Nice” (lyrics by Blackwolf), then encoored with the song Dearie sang for TV’s *Schoolhouse Rock*, “Figure Eight” (Dorough), to which audience members were invited to sing along. Providing strong musical backing were Nick Fryman, her longtime musical director, on piano, Chris Conner on bass, and Jack LeCompte on drums.

**Elliot Zwiebach**

*Cabaret Scenes*

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