

# ARTS & LEISURE

## CD's something new from Nanette

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CD, half are Johnny Mercer's, and you have to hear them to believe them. The other half... well, where Perrotte found her band better addresses that.

Perrotte describes the coming together of her band, with Aaron Jensen on piano, Keith Kirkpatrick on acoustic bass, and Colby Kuzonkoski on drums and percussion, as like a family reunion. She and Jensen spent almost four years together teaching music and voice at the Boston Conservatory. Although her band has been rehearsing and arranging this CD for a year, it takes years to develop the camaraderie necessary for each member to be in touch with his own voice and bring it to the group.

"Music is so theatrical, it is not

about one individual artist, it is actually a conversation between all members of the band," explains Perrotte.

So the other half of "I Remember You" offers original work, with music by Perrotte and lyrics written by Sebastian Lockwood, storyteller, bard, writer, poet, and teacher at Lesley College in Cambridge. Together, Lockwood and Perrotte researched the stories behind and in Mercer's originals, and that led to similarly worked lyrics and melodies from their own experience. But now the focus is on the sweetness of love, since the two are currently engaged. Together they have created the storylines and melodies for "Double Os," "Given," "Listen," and "Tack Time," each song casting a distinctive melodic glow from the rich-

ness of Perrotte's voice.

And it doesn't stop there. Perrotte develops and teaches Group VoiceYoga, a vocalization method for warming up, opening up, and getting in touch with your inner voice. She tells of a resonance that emanates from the full torso when one's breath is engaged with one's body and singing.

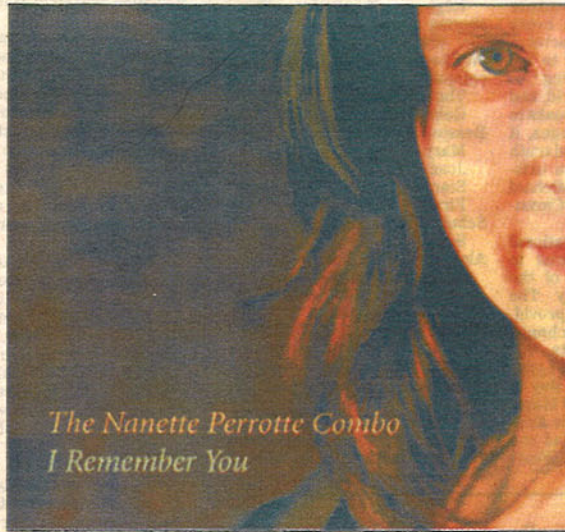
"It's three things at once," she explains. "Within each posture is a chakra, or energy center, and for each charka there is a vowel formation."

Perrotte has taken this process to schools, classes, and workshops, and most especially to children, who learn to engage in jazzy, movement-oriented singing. Perrotte is working on her third CD, which she describes as "beautiful music that will also flow as a mediation, focus and bodywork. This work will be based on energy patterns." She is also writing a book, called "SoundWork—Musical Building Blocks for Reading and Math," again for children. And she is developing a nonprofit organization called Lumen Arts, through which she will host a series of faculty and corporate retreats that merge music with yoga with voice.

Perrotte's CD, "I Rember You," is on sale at the Toadstool Bookstore and through her website, [www.Nanettevoice.com](http://www.Nanettevoice.com).

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—Nanette Perrotte



The Nanette Perrotte Combo  
I Remember You

## Something new from Nanette

By MARGARET GURNEY  
For the Ledger

Nanette Perrotte's newest CD, "I Remember You," is live, and imparts that sparkling, effervescent quality only experienced in real time.

The daughter of a French chef and former ballerina, Perrotte and her brother were raised with music. Perrotte singing along at every opportunity in her home town of Orlando. But her music now, as a woman, reveals the full-bodied expression of a lifetime of voice lessons, a building block supporting deep confidence and integrity. Perrotte has that, and her music shows it.

What a classical education can't teach is motivation, and that is what Perrotte and her band bring to the hall.

"It's all about the story," she explains, revealing her fascination for Johnny Mercer, his life and times. Mercer was a lyricist of deeply emotional stories. Each song of Mercer's that Perrotte chose for "I Remember You," tells a story of the torment of love, and Mer-

cer's crisp imagery is what Perrotte credits for driving her creative quest.

Behind Mercer's nuances of musical and theatrical harmony, explains Perrotte, was a man who in Broadway showbiz revived the vaudevillian expression of the English dance hall, Gilbert & Sullivan style. Mercer was a composer for movies, forming "lyrics and melodies that capture crystal clear memories," says Perrotte. He hoped for an acting career like Bing Crosby's, but that never panned out. Nor did his long love affair with Judy Garland, who he met on the set of a movie.

"Vocalization is an emotional act," says Perrotte, and she brings this to her singing, empowered by Mercer's clarity, his brilliance, his storytelling, and the emotion expressed in differing moods. Her CD reflects a mixture of these moods, in tones, via cadences, in themes that make her stand far apart from singers using just one emotive view. Of the 11 songs contained in this

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NANETTE PERROTTE