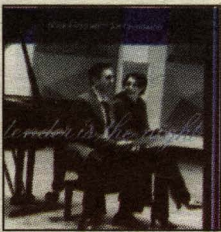


JAZZ



Tender is the Night
Nina Ferro meets Joe
Chindamo
Newmarket

★★★★★

MELBOURNE pianist Joe Chindamo knew he would have to come up with something special to top — or equal — *The Joy of Standards*, his trio album that topped the Japanese modern jazz charts earlier this year. That he has done so in a duo setting with singer Nina Ferro speaks volumes for the talent of this Australian giant of the jazz piano. Chindamo is proud of this disc and he has every reason to be. His skein of colour-rich backgrounds behind Ferro is one of the reasons the emotional warmth of her voice has never been more appealing. Chindamo describes himself as a helpless romantic: the ballads, often taken at a dreamy tempo that separates the men from the boys, are vehicles for lyrical expression. In fact some are simply beautiful, especially *Stardust*, dedicated to the late Tom Baker, where the emotional chemistry between the two brings a tear to the eye. It's a rare and moving experience. In contrast, the bouncy *Cheek to Cheek* finds them in a more playful mood, Ferro swinging with that effortless elan only the best singers have. Then again, most of the tracks are superlative. I considered *The Joy of Standards* one of the best Australian jazz albums of 2001. This superbly recorded session is just as good. It makes listening a pleasure.

Kevin Jones