

## QUOTE SHEET

### STORY SONGS #2

“In Story Songs #2, the actress and singer exemplified both versatility and fearlessness. Buckley is an artist who admirably continues to push her own limits, to creatively grow and explore, providing her audiences with both inspiration and entertainment in the process.”

- Shari Lifland, *The Huffington Post* – October 13, 2017

“Ms. Buckley remains at the top of her game. Fewer artists have the capacity to not only sing the hell out of their songs with great beauty, but to also act them with as much sincerity and heart as she does. She is truly connected to each and every musical moment. That is a rare gift that she gives freely to her devoted fans.”

- Ryan Leeds, *Manhattan Digest* – October 13, 2017

“Buckley imbues each selection with such belief in its need to be performed and with such unbridled passion and such extraordinary musicality. Being in Buckley’s presence, whatever journey she chooses to take us on, is always a worthwhile experience. “

- Brian Scott Lipton, *Theaterpizzaz.com* – October 14, 2017

“Buckley, it should be noted, remains of the master storytellers of our time, performing each song as it’s own mini drama. In an evening that runs the gamut of emotions – from loss and anger to fear and heartache and ultimately hope and redemption – Buckley tears at the heart like few others can, offering a baker’s dozen of stories that are not only entrancing but wholly worth repeating.”

- Andrew Gans, *Playbill* – October 16, 2017

“This is a great collection of songs presented with ineffable sensitivity, musicianship and heart. “

- Jeremy Gerard, *Deadline.com* – October 16, 2017

## **STORY SONGS**

“Ms. Buckley, her voice in excellent shape, gave everything she sang the shape and depth of a personal confession.”

- Stephen Holden – *The New York Times* – September 23, 2016

“An emotionally rich experience....Buckley has always been a master storyteller whether she’s bringing to life a multifaceted character in a Broadway musical or creating mini-dramas out of songs from the world of Broadway, country and pop in a concert setting.”

- Andrew Gans – *Playbill.com* – September 28, 2016

“New York City is full of great art exhibitions and play readings. In it’s very own special way, spending time at Tony Award winner Betty Buckley’s show “Story Songs” is like merging those special cultural experiences into one outing with the added bonus of hearing Buckley’s still thrilling, powerfully rendered vocals.”

- Brian Scott Lipton – *Theatrepizzazz.com* – September 23, 2016

## **Dark Blue-Eyed Blues**

It’s a beautifully curated collection full of high points but for me, the most haunting came during the wistfully delicate folk lullaby “All The Pretty Horses.” It lasted only a few seconds but it was a gaze into the distance that becalmed this great singer’s entire visage and that I realized I’d seen before. It was Grizabella’s moonlit look at the close of “Memory.”

Backed by an inspired quartet led by music director and pianist Christian Jacob, she dives into a roster of diverse classics from Duke Ellington (“Do Nothin’ Till You Hear From Me,” “Sophisticated Lady”) to Cole Porter (“I Get A Kick Out Of You”) to Joni Mitchell (“Both Sides Now”) and Leonard Cohen (“Bird On The Wire”). Along the way, she sings Stephen Sondheim’s survival anthem, “I’m Still Here,” which she recently knocked out of the park in a “Follies” concert at London’s Royal Albert Hall.

- Jeremy Gerard – *Deadline.com* – May 29, 2015

Her amazing rendition of [“I’m Still Here.”](#) from “Follies,” began as a jolly swinger, then steadily intensified as the voice of a jovial storyteller gave way to the triumphal cries of a survivor from a lifetime of shipwrecks. It was followed by a version of “Both Sides Now” that focused on the inconclusive final verse that balances losses and gains. Leonard Cohen’s “Bird on a Wire” conveyed a similarly sorrowful wisdom about the pursuit of personal freedom.

Ms. Buckley has the best band she has ever worked with. The guitarist, Oz Noy, supplied some stinging blues licks while elsewhere surrounding Ms. Buckley in watery atmospheres, with sound effects that gave the music a painterly dimension. The arrangements by Ms. Buckley’s pianist and musical director, Christian Jacob, allowed her enough room to develop her interpretations without interference. At the same time, they provided necessary structure.

- Stephen Holden – *The New York Times* – May 29, 2015

...Buckley is a master at quiet, intimate, revelatory renditions of songs you thought you knew but which sound utterly fresh and new when she sings them.

The arrangements of musical director Christian Jacob here and throughout the show leaned on low-key dissonance to create a shimmering backdrop that is deceptive and -- one imagines -- quite tricky for a singer to navigate, though Buckley makes it seem easy.

And to heck with variety, Buckley, give us a dark night of the soul show, an *In The Wee Small Hours* style evening of intimacy and regret. Leave the upbeat numbers to the kids who don't know better. On the penultimate performance of the concert proper, Buckley delivered Leonard Cohen's "Bird On The Wire" with grace, opening her arms wide as she sang "I have tried in my way to be free," as if to say, "This is who I am." Revered? Definitely.

-Michael Giltz – *Huffington Post* – May 29, 2015

The Broadway legend performed with tangible vivacity and charm, making this intimate evening a joy to experience.

- David Clarke – *BroadwayWorld.com* – June 2, 2015

## **GHOSTLIGHT**

Betty Buckley just released an album, "Ghostlight, a collaboration with the great producer T Bone Burnett, an old friend from Texas, that captures more dimensions of her complex musical personality than anything she has recorded before. Broadway standards ("Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered") sit comfortably beside gems by Mary Chapin Carpenter ("Where Time Stands Still"), Abbey Lincoln ("Throw It Away") and Tom Waits ("Take It With Me When I Go") whose lyrics cut to the bone. In uncovering the truths in song lyrics, Ms. Buckley might be described as a heart surgeon.

The show amounted to a master class in song selection and interpretation by a voice whose true grit and trembling sensitivity suggest a Texan version of Tennessee William's Blanche DuBois.

With material as powerful as the songs on the record...The main attraction at any of her performances is the voice and sensibility of an interpreter who, at her best, can take you to the center of the earth all by herself.

- *Stephen Holden – The New York Times – October 8, 2014*