

# Leave it to **SUZANNE GRZANNA** to take us all to **JAZZ NIRVANA**

By CP Christopher Peppas

When Yogi Berra said "It's like Déjà vu all over again," he didn't have Suzanne Grzanna's *Cat's Meow Anniversary Edition Album* in mind.

While the title, *The Cat's Meow*, is the same, her latest opus is in a whole other stratosphere.

It was her first time at bat, in 1993, when the song was released. An entire jazz album followed in 1994 and the singer/songwriter/saxophonist, producer, arranger and music publisher extraordinaire was on her way.

To be accomplished at any one of those disciplines would be amazing, but Suzanne Grzanna has nailed them all. Her recent collaborations with Kim Cameron, David Longoria and her legendary father, the prolific Don Grzanna have added to a resume that was already second to none.

On her way to close to recording nine more critically acclaimed albums. On her way to the Red Carpets in LA, Nashville and New York City, and has performed at most of the historic clubs where Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Dizzy Gillespie and others took the stage.



Suzanne practically needs to rent a U-Haul to cart home the eighty or so awards from the Indie Music Association, where Suzanne has been elected to their Hall of Fame.

Add to that The Clouzine International Music Awards, The Josies, Hollywood Music in Media Awards and many more. Another trophy case isn't going to cut it where our local neighborhood Sax Diva is concerned.

No, we're talking an addition to her home here to make a proper display for them all.



The difference between the young performer's version of TCM and this latest may be nuanced and subtle, but there is definitely a difference.

The innocence of young love is in the tone of the former and there's a sense of knowing in the feel of the version three decades in the making. When Suzanne hits the high end of the register with her distinctive voice, you can't help but be drawn in.

There are nine cuts on this latest drop, which should surely get consideration for Best Jazz Album when the Grammy Nominations are announced. It is most certainly worthy of being in that most rarified air.



The album is a touchstone of all things love, including lost love, unrequited love, comfortable like an old pair of slippers love, what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas love and more.

The title cut, *The Cat's Meow*, as it was years ago, is light and playful in its overall sound and feel. You'd perhaps put it in the puppy love column.

It's the just the opposite for the dark yet inviting instrumental, *Ennui*, where each note lingers and cuts straight to the heart like a bone saw. One can't help but feel sad.

In *Little Valentine*, is not an homage to that *other* Valentine song, but a love letter to that someone special nonetheless.



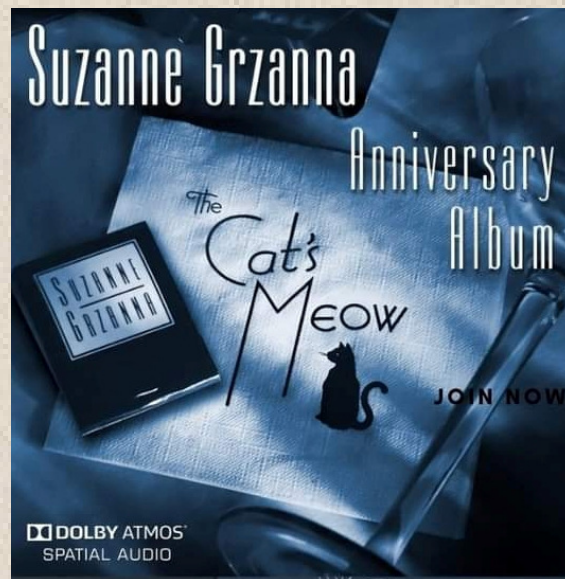
Suzanne takes a trip "up north" to what may or may be the fictional *Cedar Lodge* and what happens there when she meets her paramour, well, we'll never tell.

Which takes us to the very 30s jazzy *Mystery Man* who will reveal himself to her and all he needs to do is tell her that he's hers for keeps. His name is Gary or maybe it's Larry as the lyric explains. He has one job: sweep the songstress off her feet.

That song dovetails nicely with *By the Fireside*, where you can practically hear the crackling of some kiln-dried oak that burns bright until a couple of hours later and just the smallest of embers continue to glow.

You can listen to it on Spotify, YouTube Music, Pandora and Apple Music and you can find out where to purchase this and all of Suzanne's other albums at her website: [www.saxdiva.com](http://www.saxdiva.com).

**Needless to say, *The Cat's Meow Anniversary Edition Album* is worth your time and attention.**



#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

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