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**Michaels and Alltop combine for light, excellent fare**

For those who don't necessarily enjoy listening to sopranos sing (Editor's note: That would be me), Patrice Michaels just might be able to change your way of thinking.

*Divas of Mozart's Day* (available now on Cedille Records) is 13 musical masterpieces from the likes of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Antonio Salieri and Stephen Storace, to name a few.

Performed by the Classical Arts Orchestra, conducted by Stephen Alltop, this disc is all about the enjoyment of the music and less about some stuffy academia that it could have lapsed into.

Michaels is not to be taken lightly. Her voice is rich and textured, but she lacks that whine that so many sopranos possess. She relies on her strength and her subtle trill to deliver the songs.

To call them songs might put them in a "pop" reference, which is not meant to be disrespectful, rather to show them as the accessible pieces of music they are.

Alltop, a conductor who never gets in the way of the music, is at home here putting his delicate, but familiar, touch into each wave of the baton.

*4 stars*

*"Divas of Mozart's Day"*

*Patrice Michaels/Stephen Alltop*

*Classical Arts Orchestra*

*Cedille Records, [www.cedillerecords.org](http://www.cedillerecords.org)*

*– Paul Barile*

