

JUST THE WAY YOUR ARE Spins in Unexpected Directions

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Just The Way You Are by Rizi Trimané

I'm not sure which is more fascinating; Rizi Trimané, the artist — or Rizi Trimané, the person. But since this is a CD review, we'll leave the personality profile for another day and concentrate on the music. Just The Way You Are, Ms. Trimané's sophomore indie project, is definitely Gospel, but with a house/street underpinning that spins it in unexpected directions.

The title track opens with mellow strings before launching into a melancholy, funky, autobiographical, "can I get a witness" testimony of redemption paired with a bold declaration that this salvation is for everyone. The tune segues nicely into an encouraging, understated piano-based ballad called, "Hold On." Ms. Trimané gets seriously "house" on "No Broken Promises," a four and a half minute marathon that goes on for a minute and a half too long. Ms. Trimané calls on her Nigerian roots for the trance-inducing "Jesus Loves Me," and she recalls her dark days of cocaine addiction on the moody, intercessionary "Help Me Reach My Friend." Best cuts include the jazzy, Gospel/blues number, "Someone Tell Me Why," and the funky dancehall tune, "And I Just Wanna Say Thank You." www.rizigospel.com