

## Honoring Lady Day ... Bridgewater sings Holiday

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Dee Dee Bridgewater is a jazz vocalist whose credits include multiple Grammys (Best Jazz Vocal Performance in 1996 — *Love and Peace: A Tribute to Horace Smith* and 1998 — *Dear Ella* and Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocals — *Dear Ella* ) and a Tony Award (Best Featured Actress in *The Wiz* - 1975).

Last month, Bridgewater was nominated for a Best Jazz Vocal Album Grammy for her tribute to Billie Holiday, *To Billie with Love*.

Bridgewater's cover of Lady Day's "Good Morning Heartache" is almost smooth enough to make you forget the original. Her updated arrangement of "God Bless the Child" is full of the blues that made Holiday so famous, and it showcases Bridgewater's impressive vocal range and control.

The one miss on the record is the first cut, "Lady Sings the Blues." The arrangement is frenetic and overdone, full of cacophony by both Bridgewater and her band. A first song should set the mood, not demolish it.