



ANYA TURNER & ROBERT GRUSECKI  
LISTEN:  
POP ART SONGS

Married to each other and apparently (thankfully) wedded to the idea that there is still an appetite for earnest, life-affirming, socially conscious original message songs, Anya Turner and Robert Grusecki carry the banner. Their latest release is just a six-song EP, but this set of musical mini-sermons is serious and seriously heartfelt. *Listen* is well worth

the listen to reflect on life's priorities (should your mind need to be rebooted) and for validation of values that take some honesty and clarity to keep in view. It's therapy and confessionals that rhyme well.

His tasteful, unfussy piano playing with understated touches is a subtle support net carrying her emotional, persuasive singing that is deep in both senses of the word. (He adds a little gentle harmony occasionally, but only takes a prominent vocal in a true sharing on the mix of sage advice and catharsis that is the title track.). As their performances of their original work on earlier recordings have shown, Anya Turner and Robert Grusecki (originally billed just by their first names) can project unabashed vulnerability as well as dashes of humor about daily life without surrendering an anchored dignity. Contemporary concerns populate these new pieces. There's a plea addressing the concerns related to issues referenced by the hashtag "#MeToo." "I'd Rather Be with You" references frustrations with the TV news, "hate and bullying" and "Trumped-up tweets." Another looks ahead with a balm-like tone to the time when "Soon This Will All Be Over."

Singers looking for new songs from a grown-up, thoughtful, deeply felt perspective would do well to consider Anya & Robert's oeuvre. Those who'd like to be moved and mesmerized by this talented pair in person can do so at midtown Manhattan's popular cabaret Don't Tell Mama on March 14. They dare to be profound and relay simple basic truths.

~ Rob Lester, *Talkin' Broadway*