

By Ron Netsky **LIVE REVIEW – ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL 2007**

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Photograph of Tessa Souter at High Fidelity: Frank De Blasé

It's one thing to hear a superb set from a known giant like Randy Brecker; it's a different, particularly exhilarating feeling, to witness a great performance by a relatively unknown singer like Tessa Souter. Judging from the ovations she received at High Fidelity Saturday night, the entire audience felt the same way.



And they should have felt special; at one point Souter invited all of us back to her hotel room. That was part of her effortless, funny and flirt-heavy between-song patter. At least I don't think she was serious. I hope nothing major went on without me.

Souter has a way of entering a song, living it intensely for a few moments, and then returning to the real world. She performed some wonderful Brazilian tunes, but my favorite was her own, "You Don't Have To Believe." Among the fine musicians backing her was Essiet Essiet, who took two excellent bass solos.