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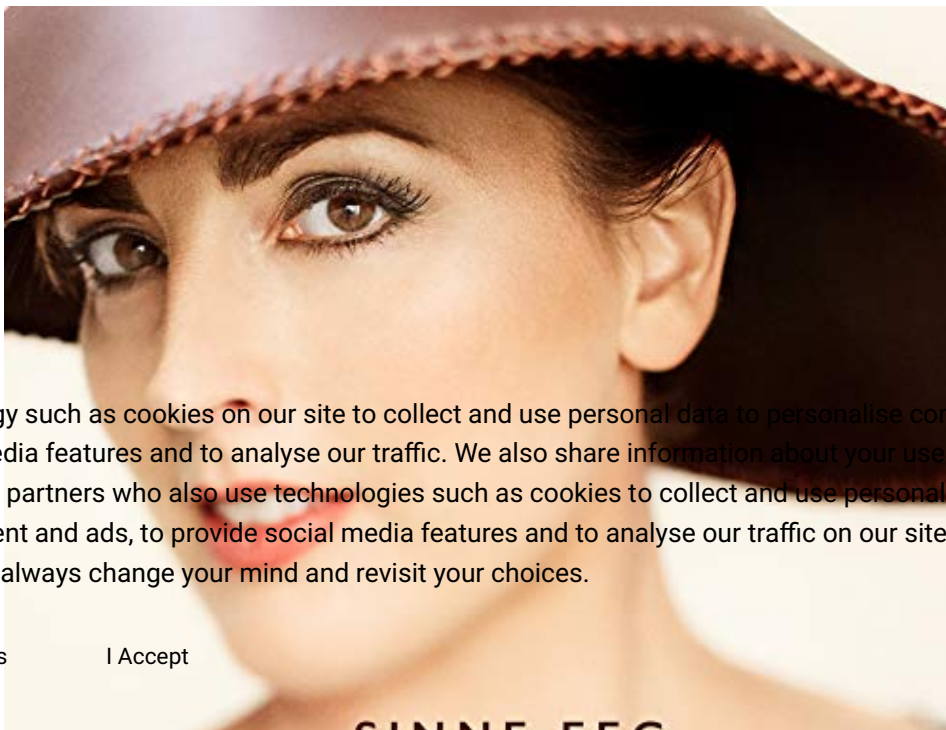
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Sinne Eeg & the Danish Radio Big Band: *We've Just Begun* (BFM Jazz)

A review of the Danish vocalist's ninth album

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The cover of *We Just Begun* by Sinne Eeg & the Danish Radio Big Band

Avivacious vocalist with a winning, unpretentious stage presence, Denmark's Sinne Eeg has been something of a go-to collaborator for the Danish Radio Big Band. She's featured on both of the ensemble's Christmas albums, but *We've Just Begun* marks a major leap in the relationship. With Eeg credited on half of the album's 10 tracks, the project is an impressive outing that showcases her gifts as a songwriter—and as a vocalist whose full, burnished tone sounds warmly rounded in every register.

Danish trumpeter Jacob Riis doesn't play on the album but wrote half of its arrangements, serving Eeg particularly well on her original material. She wrote the words and music for the luscious Ellingtonian ballad "Like a Song," and Jensen's rising and ebbing tide of reeds tenderly hugs the melody's undulating contours. The award-winning Danish composer/arranger Peter Jensen contributed three charts, including the infectiously swinging title track (which pairs Eeg's composition with lyrics by Mark Winkler and Shelley Nyman) and the jaunty Danish standard "Talking to Myself" (a piece Eeg first released a decade ago on her album *Remembering You*).

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While still introducing herself to North American audiences, Eeg has forged deep ties on the Los Angeles jazz scene; she dedicates the album to the great L.A. saxophonist/arranger Roger Neumann, who died in 2018 at the age of 77. He contributed two of the most striking arrangements: a molasses-drip version of "Detour Ahead," highlighted by a gorgeous Nicolai Schultz flute solo, and a spiky, funkier "Ones and Twos." The album opens with the haunting and tender "Fresh Starts," which features lyrics Eeg added to a tune by Danish pianist Martin Schack. It's an aptly celebratory conclusion to an album by one of the top jazz vocalists on any continent.

Preview, buy or download *We've Just Begun* on Amazon! (<https://amzn.to/39CFaOW>)