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Highlights of the Rochester International Jazz Festival

Frank De Blase, Rochester City Paper
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You can hear a little Ella ringing from this red-headed belle. And it isn't just because vocalist Robin McKelle drinks from the same well; it's in her tone and phrasing as well. It's warm and sweet, but it's got stones.

McKelle's big-band sound - produced by Brian Setzer's trumpeter/arranger Willie Murillo - is full of classic wartime exuberance. Currently living in Boston, McKelle grew up in Rochester. She attended Berklee College of Music and has shared the stage with heavyweights like Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, and Terrence Blanchard. She entered the Thelonious Monk Vocal Jazz competition in 2004, where she took third place.

The list goes on and on, but you've really just got to hear this young lady sing.