**“This is Happiness” by Clara Bellino**

[http://www.clarabellino.com](http://www.clarabellino.com/)

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| **Item Summary:**  Artist: Clara Bellino  Title: This is Happiness  Label: ClaraTone Records  Catalog No: CT – 03  Format: CD  Street Date: September 22, 2012  Original Artwork: Wendy Wright  Cover Photo: Dan Doerner  Black & White Photos: Jean-Claude Bellino  File Under: Pop Jazz    **Track Listing:**   1. This is Happiness (Radio Edit + Video for Single) 2. Hand in Hand (+ 2 Videos: Video for Single + Bobby Sharp Documentary) 3. Driftwood (Interlude) 4. Hand in Hand (Duet with Bobby Sharp) 5. This is Happiness   **Musicians:**  Piano: Bobby Sharp  Vox: Clara Bellino  Vox: Bobby Sharp on duet with Bobby Sharp  Background Vox: Rocío Guitard and Bryan Dyer  Drums: Russ Gold  Electric Bass and Standup: Sam Bevan  Acoustic / Electric Guitars and Ukelele: Ken Harrill  Electric Piano and Hammond B3: Greg Sankovich  Tenor and Soprano Sax: Lincoln Adler  Trombone: Mike Rinta  Percussions: Jose Najera  Viola: Darcy Rindt  Cello: Beth Vandervennet  Production: Lincoln Adler and Greg Sankovich  Video Production: Lincoln Adler and Clara Bellino  Executive Producer: Clara Bellino | Clara Bellino’s musical genesis is interesting and memorable, and easily translates into a hybrid of classic American songwriting mixed with the romanticism of French jazz and classical roots. It’s an intoxicating and charming mix of old world meets new with a…pardon the pun…French twist. What Bellino has managed to do with this set of songs is to show versatility, deft vocal touch and an attention to detail that shines through every moment of the record.  “Hand in Hand” is a Bobby Sharp ballad, and Bellino offers up two very smooth and delightful interpretations on this record. The first is a solo Bellino, with a vocal track that sounds liquid, languid and definitely sets a romantic, old-world tone. The second finds Bellino in a duet with the late Bobby Sharp himself (who penned the classic “Unchain My Heart”), and the contrast of their voices is such a refreshing blend of experience and tone. There is a vintage quality to the pairing and sits easily as a modern gem of its own, but stands up to classic duets of the past.  Clara Bellino’s artistry is what rings loud and clear above all of the individual and collectively interesting and unique moments on this record. She has a clear and intuitive understanding of how to meld her upbringing with her own modern experience in the American music scene. She is a unique voice, but the music itself is universal. Both are widely appealing, and Bellino’s infectious personality shines.  *~ Heidi Drockelman*  [*www.Indie-Music.com*](http://www.Indie-Music.com)  *Read the full review* [*here*](http://www.indie-music.com/ee/index.php/blog/comments/review_clara_bellino_this_is_happiness_hand_in_hand)*.*  *Learn more in the interview feature on The Expat Woman:* <http://www.theexpatwoman.com/clara-bellino-musician-and-actor/>  **Learn About Clara Bellino:**  [http://www.clarabellino.com](http://www.clarabellino.com/)  <https://www.facebook.com/clarabellinofans>  <https://twitter.com/ClaraBellino>  <http://www.youtube.com/user/clarabellino1/>  <http://www.reverbnation.com/clarabellino>  <http://www.pinterest.com/clarabellino/>  **Contact Information:**  Email: [bookings@clarabellino.com](mailto:booking@clarabellino.com)  Contact Number: 415 SHO-WBEL (415-746-9235)  **Assistants:**  PR & Scheduling: Sara Dudine – [s.dudine.va@gmail.com](mailto:s.dudine.va@gmail.com)  **Opening Act for Following Bands:**   * Jellyfish * The American Music Club * Loud Family |

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| **Clara Bellino Biography**  Following up on her successful CD Embarcadero Love, the delightful singer-songwriter Clara Bellino has emerged with This Is Happiness – Hand In Hand. This new recording not only features her newest song “This Is Happiness” and a duet with the late and legendary Bobby Sharp (best known for composing “Unchain My Heart”) but two videos and a documentary, making for a unique release by a major artist.    Clara Bellino was born in Paris and grew up in a small village of the French Alps. She spent a decade studying classical piano and guitar in a conservatory where she wrote some of her first songs. “I wanted to perform my own music and in France I felt as if I was stuck. The choices were to become a pop variety artist who had to have a hit in order to get on television, or to play classical or jazz. I felt that there were a lot more options to grow in music in the U.S.”    Clara moved to California when she was 17, took music classes at Foothill College, started her first group, and played bass in a reggae band. Since 1992 she has worked in many films (including starring as a singer in the 1993 feature film, Steal America) and commercials, and she has had extensive voiceover work, but music has always been her main passion. Clara recorded her first solo CD, Flying Monkey and in 2005 she recorded “Come And Stay With Me” for a compilation album (Juxtamusician) put out by a label from Austin, Texas. The single was also included in her next CD, Embarcadero Love.    Embarcadero Love, which Clara calls “soulful pop,” has distinctive and original versions of songs by Tom Waits, Smokey Robinson, William Barnes (the classic “Something Cool”) and Jackie DeShannon (“Come And Stay With Me”). Of greatest significance, this colorful set introduces six of Clara’s best compositions. Among the highpoints are her songs about the difficulties of a long distance romance (“Goodnight Baby”), the futility of war (“Peaceful Solution”), moving to another country (“Potential Criminal”) and the joy and adventure of living your own life (“Big Picture”). Throughout Embarcadero Love, the offbeat lyrics, highly original way of looking at life, quietly emotional vocals and fine backup band make this a memorable and very accessible set.    For the new CD, Clara at first wrote “This Is Happiness,” a song about the joy found in simple pleasures that will have audiences singing along. Although she had originally planned to release the song as a CD single, her friendship with the legendary songwriter Bobby Sharp led to the project being expanded. Sharp originally wrote “Hand In Hand” in 1947 and over 15 years later Nat King Cole expressed interest in it. However the song was never recorded and went undiscovered until now. “I wanted Bobby to be on the project. It was a pleasure working with him and he always had wonderful stories to share.”    The CD includes two versions of “This Is Happiness” and “Hand In Hand” (including a duet by Clara with Bobby Sharp), videos of both of the songs, Sharp’s pretty instrumental “Driftwood,” and a video documentary about the great composer. |