

Just Jazz Magazine

reviews our Classic Jazz albums

CJ 23 Horn Of Plenty - Peter Ecklund & The Jazz Improvisors

\$16.95

"I have been desperate for some good news...this delightful CD seemed to be just what I needed. The assembled musicians are top-flight and often associated with playing in a style which harks back to an age of optimism (musically at least). The sound of three disparate groups assembled here takes you back to the music ...for example, Paul Whiteman and Bix and his Gang. The instrumentation is straight from that era. The presence of musicians such as the leader, Ecklund and the wonderful Marty Grosz, tells you to expect music with a smile and so it is. The highlight of the whole CD is Bull Frog Blues by Teschemacher. It has a fine Dan Barrett trombone solo, followed by a really 'bluesy' Muranyi clarinet, with Ecklund's muted offering, just superb. Whilst avoiding a straightforward cover, Ecklund's playing inevitably reminds you of Bix, but I, for one, am not complaining. This CD succeeded in brightening my day, and for that I'm grateful.

- Barry Clare



CJ 2567 3 Kings of Jazz - Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton & Bix Beiderbecke The Jim Cullum Happy Jazz Band (3 CD set)

\$29.95

Leader Jim Cullum's cornet style sounds to have its roots in the melodic lineage of Bix and Bobby Hackett; he is a truly superb player who leads and solos with tremendous authority. Randy Reinhart's bone playing is outstanding to my ears drawing many influences, not least Jack Teagarden and Lou McGarity. He solos with an easy assurance and huge conviction. I am familiar with Allan Vache's agile clarinet playing and rate his fluent and melodic mastery of the instrument as being up there with the best. The rhythm section is superb. The 3 CDs are well produced offering a high quality studio sound which is beautifully balanced throughout. The band must be one of the slickest bands on the planet, putting me in mind at times of the Dutch Swing College Band. It is great to hear tunes like Black Bottom Stomp and Shreveport Stomp played with such consummate ease, whilst at the same time storming along like an express train. Highly recommended!

- Rogers Marks



CJ 15 Fats Waller Revisited - Dick Wellstood and his friends

\$16.95

Under the leadership of Dick Wellstood—a wonderful pianist and wit, like 'Fats' there was an abundance of humour in Dick's playing and the spirit of Waller was always there in his performance. Jane Harvey, reached national acclaim after recording a handful of songs with the Benny Goodman Orchestra. She sings beautifully here. All the tunes are associated with Waller, Honeysuckle Rose and Ain't Misbehavin' being his best-known compositions and two of the most recorded tunes in jazz. Honeysuckle taken at a sedate tempo with Zoot Sims and Ed Polcer sharing the first chorus, followed by Jane's vocal. The tempo is increased, and ex-Waller guitarist Al Casey takes a nice chorus before Jane re-enters for a swinging finale. Ain't Misbehavin' has a similar work-out with Wellstood playing some great piano. Jane sings seductively on Squeeze Me and S'posin'. Wellstood's piano is sensitive behind Jane's vocal on Two Sleepy People and Zoot is featured on a whole chorus. Ed Polcer and John Bucher, trumpets are heard to good effect on the closing number, A Sin To Tell A Lie—Wellstood plays another wonderful chorus. Jane Harvey is a class act...and I'm sure 'Fats' would have enjoyed hearing these interpretations.

- Neville Dickie



New Releases

CJ 30 'Baby' Laurence - Dancemaster, World's Premier Tap Dancer

\$16.95

CJ 31 Earl Hines Plays George Gershwin

\$16.95



Visit our website for our total jazz catalogue offerings at
www.musicminusone.com

