

FROM ORIGINAL ANALOG MASTER



DEREK SMITH TRIO

PLAYS



JEROME KERN



DEREK SMITH

I am constantly asked, "Who is your favorite composer?" Since the question is invariably posed at post-jazz-concert get-togethers or in clubs, I naturally assume the inquirer is not interested in my opinion of Bach or Bethoven, but in the considerably smaller world of the American Musical Theatre from which most of our "standards" emanate. I generally respond with a fatuous cliché something like "They are all so great, how can you pick one over the other?" No position taken, no real opinion expressed.

But when Gus Statiras called to say "Make an album of your favorite composer," and hung up the phone, I had to take a position, and the result is this recording. Perhaps one determines one's favorite composer by the associations made with each melody. I remember in my very early twenties, sitting in at my local jazz club, where the first tune was always "The Way You Look Tonight," before I had ever heard of Jerome Kern. Then, of course, Dizzy and Bird's recording of "All The Things You Are," which we copied slavishly (including the classic intro) without realizing that this was a ballad, perhaps the greatest ballad of the day. Then the typical set would end with a fast version of "The Song Is You" with almost everybody, including myself tripping over the bridge. Kern's tunes were really not for amateurs.

It was some years later while working as accompanist to Mel Tormé that he made me aware of “The Folks Who Live On The Hill,” “I’m Old Fashioned” and “Long Ago And Far Away.” And who can forget Sinatra’s Nelson Riddlized versions of “I Won’t Dance” and “A Fine Romance.” Gus Statiras recalled “Dearly Beloved” to me and suggested “Ol’ Man River” should be recorded.

Perhaps a final note of association to Kern, the fact that early in his career, before he had any songs published, Jerome Kern played the piano in the sheet music department of Macy’s Department Store. This happened to be my first job in New York, many years later.

On this collection I am accompanied by my good friends Linc Milliman on bass and Ronnie Bedford on drums, an ideal rhythm combination, full of fire when necessary, yet always conscious of dynamics and seemingly able to know and react to my thoughts ahead of time.

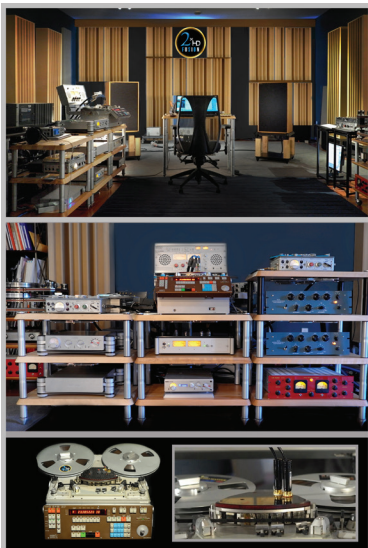
Derek Smith



JEROME KERN



THE 2xHD MASTERING PROCESS



The 2xHD Fusion Mastering System: In the constant evolution of its proprietary mastering process, 2xHD has progressed to a new phase called 2xHD FUSION, integrating the finest analog, with state-of-the-art digital technology.

The mastering chain consists of a selection of high-end vacuum tube equipment. For the recordings on this album, the original ¼" 15 ips NagraMaster curve, NAB or CCIR master tapes were played on a Nagra-T tape recorder, modified with high-end tube playback electronics, wired with OCC silver cable from the playback head direct to a Nick Doshi tube head preamplifier. The Nagra T, with its four direct drive motors, two pinch rollers and a tape tension head, has one of the best transports ever made. A custom-built carbon fiber head block and a head damping electronic system permit 2xHD FUSION to obtain a better resolution and 3D imaging.

The resulting signal is then transferred into high resolution formats by recording it in DXD using a custom 2xHD Technologies A to D converter. All analog and digital cables that are used are state of the art Siltech. The 2xHD FUSION mastering system is powered by a super capacitor power supply, using a new technology that lowers the digital noise found in the lowest level of the spectrum. A vacuum tube NAGRA HD DAC X is used as a reference digital playback converter in order to A and B with the original analog master tape, permitting the fusion of the warmth of analog with the refinement of digital.

2xHD.com
Pure Emotion

THE DEREK SMITH TRIO

Plays JEROME KERN

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| 1. OL' MAN RIVER | 3:05 |
| (Lyrics: <i>Oscar Hammerstein, II</i> , Musical: <i>Show Boat</i> , 1927) | |
| 2. A FINE ROMANCE | 5:02 |
| (Lyrics: <i>Dorothy Fields</i> , Film: <i>Swing Time</i> , 1936) | |
| 3. THE FOLKS THAT LIVE ON THE HILL | 4:07 |
| (Lyrics: <i>Oscar Hammerstein, II</i> , Film: <i>High, Wide and Handsome</i> , 1937) | |
| 4. I'M OLD FASHIONED | 4:40 |
| (Lyrics: <i>Johnny Mercer</i> , Film: <i>You Were Never Lovelier</i> , 1942) | |
| 5. LONG AGO AND FAR AWAY | 4:12 |
| (Lyrics: <i>Ira Gershwin</i> , Film: <i>Cover Girl</i> , 1944) | |
| 6. THE WAY YOU LOOK TONIGHT | 4:14 |
| (Lyrics: <i>Dorothy Fields</i> , Film: <i>Swing Time</i> , 1936) | |
| 7. I WON'T DANCE | 5:30 |
| (Lyrics: <i>Dorothy Fields</i> , <i>Oscar Hammerstein, II</i> , and <i>Jimmy McHugh</i> , Film: <i>Roberta</i> , 1935) | |
| 8. DEARLY BELOVED | 3:09 |
| (Lyrics: <i>Johnny Mercer</i> , Film: <i>You Were Never Lovelier</i> , 1942) | |
| 9. ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE | 4:06 |
| (Lyrics: <i>Oscar Hammerstein, II</i> , Musical: <i>Very Warm For May</i> , 1939) | |
| 10. THE SONG IS YOU | 4:35 |
| (Lyrics: <i>Oscar Hammerstein, II</i> , Musical: <i>Music In The Air</i> , 1932) | |

DEREK SMITH - PIANO
RONNIE BEDFORD - DRUMS
LINC MILLIMAN - BASS

SUPERVISED BY
GUS P. STATIRAS

Recorded March 27, 1980
in New York, NY

Engineered by Fred Miller

2xHD Mastering: RENÉ LAFLAMME
2xHD Executive Producer: ANDRÉ PERRY

