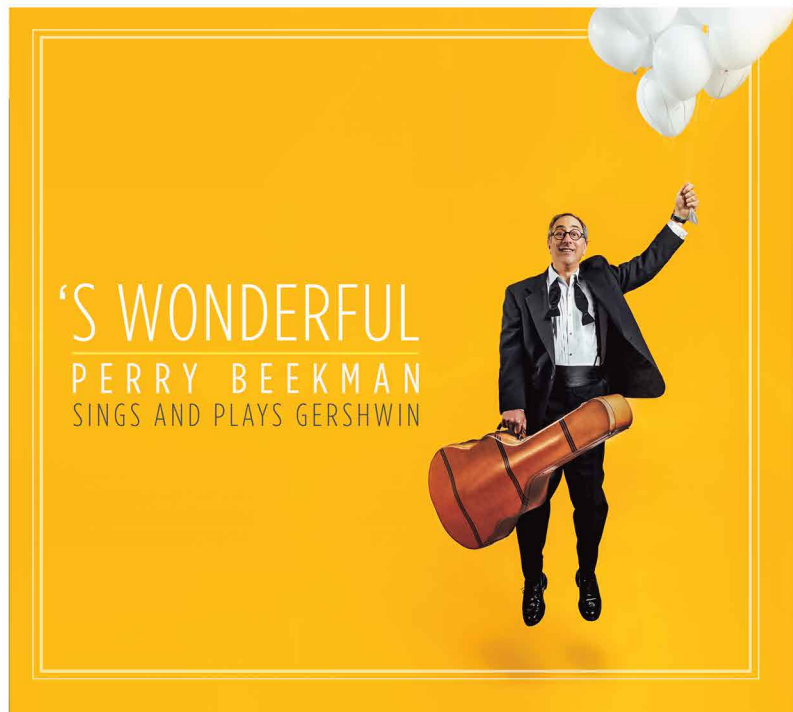


NEW RELEASE

FILE UNDER: **JAZZ**

RELEASE DATE: **JUNE 5TH, 2015**

“S WONDERFUL: PERRY BEEKMAN SINGS AND PLAYS GERSHWIN”



ARTIST: PERRY BEEKMAN

TITLE: “S WONDERFUL: PERRY BEEKMAN SINGS AND PLAYS GERSHWIN”

LABEL: PERRY BEEKMAN

UPC CODE: 8829524956

RELEASE DATE: JUNE 5TH, 2015

TRACK LISTING AND TIMES:

- 1 OH LADY BE GOOD (4:51)
- 2 NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT (5:17)
- 3 FASCINATING RHYTHM (4:32) *Instr.*
- 4 HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON (4:35)
- 5 THEY ALL LAUGHED (4:16)
- 6 I'VE GOT A CRUSH ON YOU (3:38) *Instr./Vocal*
- 7 SOON (4:10)
- 8 LOVE IS HERE TO STAY (5:46)
- 9 LIZA (3:20)
- 10 BUT NOT FOR ME (5:24) *Instr.*
- 11 'S WONDERFUL (2:52)
- 12 LOVE WALKED IN (5:03)
- 13 SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME (4:59)
- 14 I GOT RHYTHM (3:29)
- 15 LET'S CALL THE WHOLE THING OFF (3:59)

MUSICIANS: PERRY BEEKMAN (VOCALS AND GUITAR),
PETER TOMLINSON (PIANO), LOU PAPPAS (BASS)

PRODUCED BY: PERRY BEEKMAN

ALL TUNES COMPOSED BY:
GEORGE AND IRA GERSHWIN

ARTIST HOME MARKET: USA

The songs of George and Ira Gershwin are not only vastly important underpinnings of my own musical world, but 78 years after George's passing in 1937, still a vibrant part of our larger cultural heritage:

- On a recent United Airlines flight, I really enjoyed the soundtrack of their new inflight safety video. It was “Rhapsody in Blue.”
- This coming April, theatergoers will be treated to the opening of “An American in Paris” on Broadway. It's a new musical based on the 1951 Vincent Minnelli film, featuring the songs of George and Ira. How's that for *au courant*!

As with my previous releases, the music on this CD is a combination of carefully planned, well-rehearsed arrangements, along with some good old fashioned “blowing.” (As we jazz folk like to call improvisation.) My goal has been to create a setting for each tune that helps express its essential nature. Here are some examples of what I mean:

- “Oh Lady Be Good” has been a staple of the jazz player's repertoire for decades. To herald its classic status, I quoted a bit of “Rhapsody in Blue” in the introduction. Then, I updated the chord structure to freshen things up a bit while still keeping the tune recognizable. Check out the “Soli” section at 3:04. I like to try to make the trio sound like a little big band!

- What makes “Fascinating Rhythm” particularly fascinating for me is George's use of syncopation, a musical technique that places accents on the weak beats of the measure. Peter's piano part evolves into a counter melody with the guitar to enhance the sense of the unexpected. Lou's solid walking keeps it all swinging.

- I thought that a stripped down guitar/voice treatment of “I've Got a Crush on You” would be an effective way to perform this classic love song. The Gershwin's originally wrote it as an up-tempo dance number. Lee Wiley was the first vocalist to slow it down and sing it as a ballad. After first playing an instrumental chorus in the classic chord-melody style, so do I.

- In addition to inspiring countless choruses of improvisation, jazz musicians have written innumerable melodies that fit over the chord changes of “I Got Rhythm”. I first sing the original melody, including the seldom-heard introductory verse. After the guitar solo, we play a melody I wrote as my small contribution to the creative tradition of “Rhythm Changes.”

Once again, I have the privilege of recording with my working trio, featuring Peter Tomlinson on piano and Lou Pappas on bass. I am deeply indebted to these two masterful musicians for their inestimable contributions and commitment.

For me, there's nothing quite as “S Wonderful” as a Gershwin tune. I hope that as you listen to these tracks, you'll agree. - Perry Beekman

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