

After 40 Years, The Canucks Ain't Misbehavin'



DISCOURSE

with Bill Polonsky

The Canucks, with deserved fanfare, have come together to produce its first CD in a career that spans the musical landscape of the last 40 years. It is a songbook of great standards interpreted by honest to God Yukon musical legends.

Red Lewis, Ed Isaak and Ray Park form the foundation of The Canucks, a group that has been a fixture of the Whitehorse music scene for decades.

Their talents together and as individuals have garnered them success far beyond the Yukon, but there must be something about the Yukon that keeps them here.

Ain't Misbehavin' is the fruit of this partnership. These 12 tracks are proof that time and talent can only enhance the performance.

Having stood the test of time and standing out today as genuine hits, these are songs that they call standard for good reason. These are songs that any musician could have in their repertoire, but these popular tunes in the hands of these performers, songs that they know intimately, come to life in an album of love and joy.

Recorded at BlueStar Studio in Whitehorse by Chris and Brandon Isaak, the tracks on this collection have a lively feel and, if only for the lack of applause, feel as if they might have been recorded live.

Ed Isaak's son, Brandon, plays guitar on a number of the songs and Jerry Cook handles the saxophone duties.

Any CD with *Fly Me To The Moon* on it brings on a very deep nostalgia that compels me to investigate further.

This is a song that has the balance of good rhythm and lyrics.

Just try to sing *Fly Me to the Moon* without welcoming the accompanying swing and inflection ... hard isn't it?

This whole CD gets you right

down there where that mojo lives.

Just a Gigolo and *Misty* are infectious tunes and always get me singing along.

These songs originated on radio and in this CD line-up one can imagine a time when hits like these were in rotation on a local radio station.

There is a pure enjoyment of the songs themselves, played with love and care by those who experienced this music firsthand.

There are no jarring edged or wasted notes; everything on this album is smooth, smooth smooth. The arrangements are spare and airy allowing individual musicians to solo in and out of verses.

From the great accordion, piano, organ and handclaps on *Satan Takes A Holiday* to the swinging bass line and shuffle beat of *Canadian Sunset* these musicians know their way around these songs.

The CD closes with *Wonderful World*, voted as most popular song of the 20th century and what better sentiment is it that that three guys can continue to play, enjoy and record the music they love best: A wonderful world indeed.

Full of sentiment and substance, *Ain't Misbehavin'* is a labour of love and a pleasure to listen too. I only hope we won't have to wait four decades for the next CD.

Rose's Music generously provided this CD for review.

If you have a Yukon CD or film you would like discussed in this column, you can contact Bill Polonsky in his easy chair with pipe and fez at www.strangethingsdone.com



Ain't Misbehavin' is the first CD from the Yukon Supergroup, The Canucks.

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