

Ray Charles & Betty Carter - Dedicated To You (1961)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 29 October 2009 21:25 - Last Updated Tuesday, 18 June 2013 09:32

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1. "Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye" (Cole Porter) – 4:41
2. "You and I" (Meredith Willson) – 3:28
3. Intro: "Goodbye"/"We'll Be Together Again" (Gordon Jenkins)/(Carl Fischer, Frankie Laine) – 3:20
4. "People Will Say We're in Love" (Oscar Hammerstein II, Richard Rodgers) – 2:51
5. "Cocktails for Two" (Sam Coslow, Arthur Johnston) – 3:15
6. "Side by Side" (Harry M. Woods, Gus Kahn) – 2:23
7. "Baby, It's Cold Outside" (Frank Loesser) – 4:10
8. "Together" (Lew Brown, Buddy De Sylva, Ray Henderson) – 1:35
9. "For All We Know" (J. Fred Coots, Sam M. Lewis) – 3:44
10. "Takes Two to Tango" (Al Hoffman, Dick Manning) – 3:22
11. "Alone Together" (Howard Dietz, Arthur Schwartz) – 4:45
12. "Just You, Just Me" (Jesse Greer, Raymond Klages) – 2:04
13. "But On the Other Hand Baby" (Charles, Percy Mayfield) – 3:11
14. "I Never See Maggie Alone" (Harry Tilsley, Everett Lynton) – 5:37
15. "I Like to Hear It Sometime" (Jodie Edwards) – 2:50

Personnel: Ray Charles (piano, vocals); Marty Paich (arranger, conductor); Bill Pittman (guitar); Hank Crawford (alto saxophone); David "Fathead" Newman (tenor saxophone); Leroy Cooper (baritone saxophone); Martin Banks, John Hunt (trumpet); Edgar Willis (bass); Irving Cottler (drums.)

Ray Charles's decision to cut an album of duets with then-rising jazz singer Betty Carter defines the phrase "unerring instinct." Charles responds to Carter's gorgeous voice and compelling melodic changes with some of his softest singing; you might say that this already masterful conduit of emotion got in touch with his feminine side on this 1961 date. The opening and closing cuts of the girls'-names theme album *Dedicated to You*, another '61 LP that fills out this 78-minute disc, demonstrate Brother Ray's touch for transforming unlikely material into expressions of his own funky essence. His amused big-band celebrations of "Hardhearted Hannah" and "Sweet Georgia Brown" sit alongside sublime portraits of "Stella by Starlight" and

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"Ruby" on an underappreciated set that's a perfect match for the Charles-Carter sides. --Rickey Wright, Editorial Review

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