George Gershwin – Porgy & Bess – Ella & Louis (1957)

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1. *"Overture" (George Gershwin) – 10:52*
2. *"Summertime" – 4:58*
3. *"I Wants to Stay Here" – 4:38*
4. *"My Man's Gone Now" – 4:02*
5. *"I Got Plenty O' Nuttin'" – 3:52*
6. *"Buzzard Song" – 2:58*
7. *"Bess, You Is My Woman Now" – 5:28*
8. *"It Ain't Necessarily So" (George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin) – 6:34*
9. *"What You Want Wid Bess?" – 1:59*
10. *"Woman Is a Sometime Thing" – 4:47*
11. *"Oh, Doctor Jesus" – 2:00*
12. *Medley: "Here Come de Honey Man"/"Crab Man"/"Oh, Dey's So Fresh and Fine" – 3:29*
13. *"There's a Boat Dat's Leavin' Soon for New York" – 4:54*
14. *"Oh Bess, Oh Where's My Bess?" – 2:36*
15. *"Oh, Lawd, I'm on My Way!" – 2:57*

 •Louis Armstrong - Vocals, Trumpet •Ella Fitzgerald - Vocals •Paul Smith - Piano •Alvin Stoller – Drums   Orchestra & Chorus: Vincent DeRosa - French horn Frank Beach - Trumpet Buddy Childers - Trombone Cappy Lewis Milt Bernhart Marshall Cram James Henderson Lloyd Ulyate Victor Arno - Violin Robert Barene Jacques Gasselin Joseph Livoti Dan Lube Amerigo Marino Bill Miller Erno Neufeld Marshall Sosson Robert Sushel Gerald Vinci Tibor Zelig Myron Bacon - Viola Abraham Hochstein Raymond Menhennick Myron Sandler Justin Di Tullio - Cello Kurt Reher William Van Den Burg Tony Rizzi - Guitar Joe Mondragon - Double Bass   Russel Garcia – conductor

There have been many recordings of the music from the Gershwin opera Porgy and Bess, but this is one of the more rewarding ones. Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald sing all of the parts, performing 16 of the play's best melodies. Unfortunately, there is not much Armstrong trumpet to be heard, but the vocals are excellent and occasionally wonderful, making up for the unimaginative Russ Garcia arrangements assigned to the backup orchestra. ---Scott Yanow,
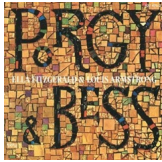
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