

Rosemary Clooney - Jazz Singer (2003)

Written by bluesever

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1. *It Don't Mean A Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)* 2. *I'll Be Around* 3. *How About You* 4. *Blues In The Night* [play](#) 5. *Memories Of You* 6. *I'm Checkin' Out, Goombye* 7. *What Is There To Say* 8. *The Lady Is A Tramp* 9. *Bad News* 10. *Hey Baby* 11. *It's Bad For Me* 12. *A Touch Of The Blues* 13. *Together* 14. *Learnin' The Blues* 15. *Doncha Go 'Way Mad* 16. *Sophisticated Lady* [play](#) 17. *Come Rain Or Come Shine* 18. *Goodbye*

Personnel: Rosemary Clooney (vocals); Duke Ellington (arranger, piano); Martin Berman, Gene Cipriano, Ted Nash (saxophone); Willie Cook, Ray Nance, Clark Terry, Cat Anderson (trumpet); Benny Goodman (clarinet); Milton Weiser (violin); Sidney Brecher (viola); Raoul Sims (cello); Billy Strayhorn, Dick Hyman (piano); Mundell Lowe, Tony Rizzi (guitar); Jimmy Woode (bass); Sam Woodyard, Alvin Stoller, Bobby Donaldson (drums); The Paramount Studio Orchestra, Nelson Riddle Orchestra, The Hi-Lo's, Ray Charles Singers.

Columbia's compilation of vintage Rosemary Clooney gems comes with superb support. Throughout her career, the jazz singer always had that kind of expertise surrounding her. *Jazz Singer* starts off with the Duke Ellington Orchestra in an excerpt from *Blue Rose*. Clark Terry, Harry Carney and Jimmy Hamilton rip off delightful solos to complement the buoyant singer. Then, from *Tenderly*, Clooney sings a soothing ballad: one of her most welcomed trademarks. The sound of her voice and the balance from supporting orchestras leads to a pleasant memento. The Hi-Los provide interesting interaction, and later, the Ray Charles Singers offer subtle vocal harmony. Michael Feinstein's contemporary liner notes provide all the details and circumstances.

With Benny Goodman, Clooney bubbles with enthusiasm as she trades off with the clarinetist. The sounds are sweet and the mood is light. A more dramatic approach comes from the Paramount film *Red Garters*, as Clooney sings "Bad News" with a poignant studio orchestra. Interpreting show and film tunes from dramatic scenes was one of the singer's strongest points, and her experience compounded that heartfelt trait in her later years. The selections heard here

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date from 1951 to 1957. They feature Clooney at the top of her form and in different scenarios. With Urbie Green and Benny Goodman on "Goodbye," she's introspective. After such a long career, Rosemary Clooney left us a treasury of recorded memories. This select group of favorites proves delightful throughout. ---Jim Santella

Rosemary Clooney often worked with arrangers who stressed the pop or cabaret aspects of her singing. Of course, she was also a superb jazz vocalist, and, when paired with artists such as pianist/composer Duke Ellington and clarinetist Benny Goodman, her musical gift shone even brighter.

The serene, melancholy "Memories of You" underscores the affinity shared between Clooney and the Goodman trio. This track begins with Goodman's unembellished reading of the tune. However, when Clooney sings, Goodman and pianist Teddy Wilson answer her with virtuosic countermelodies. On this selection, Clooney sings in a lower key, which adds an extra dose of sultriness to the proceedings. Another significant track is "I'm Checkin' Out, Goombye," which showcases the triple threat of Clooney, Ellington, and Goodman. On this tune, Ellington's arrangement sparkles with rich colors and textures, Goodman's solo is light and whimsical, and Clooney's voice is articulate yet carefree. --- Rosemary Clooney often worked with arrangers who stressed the pop or cabaret aspects of her singing. Of course, she was also a superb jazz vocalist, and, when paired with artists such as pianist/composer Duke Ellington and clarinetist Benny Goodman, her musical gift shone even brighter. ---cduniverse.com

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