Ian Shaw - Taking It To Hart (2007)

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1 Ian Shaw - I Wish I Were In Love Again   13:45   2 Ian Shaw - Where or When   15:35   3 Artie Shaw | Ian Shaw - Have You Met Miss Jones   4:17   4 Artie Shaw | Ian Shaw - I Could Write a Book   4:00   5 Ian Shaw - My Romance / Any Old Place With You   12:05   6 Artie Shaw | Ian Shaw - Little Girl Blue   4:05   7 Artie Shaw | Ian Shaw - I Didn't Know What Time It Was   6:12   8 Various Artists - My Funny Valentine   4:32   9 Artie Shaw | Ian Shaw - Blue Moon (feat. Carol Grimes)   1:42   10 Ian Shaw - This Can't Be Love   3:02   11 Artie Shaw | Ian Shaw - It Never Entered My Mind   5:14   12 Ian Shaw - This Funny World   3:54   13 Ian Shaw - With a Song in My Heart   5:47   Iain Ballamy - Sax (Tenor) Guy Barker - Trumpet Matthew Barley - Cello Mark Fletcher - Drums Carol Grimes - Vocals Mornington Lockett - Sax (Tenor) Ian Shaw - Vocals Tim Wells - Bass Mari Wilson - Vocals Adrian York – Piano

Thirteen of Richard Rodgers' most glorious melodies, with bittersweet lyrics by Lorenz Hart. The songs will live long after this CD is landfill. The liner notes describe Shaw as "the best male jazz voice ever to come out of Britain." He is blessed with strong pipes and good intonation; unfortunately, he has also mastered every pop mannerism-bathos, exaggerated dynamics, melodramatic vibrato, fake-Southern diction, swoops of pointless-tasteless Mathis falsetto, the Tom Jones vocal wink, the ain't-we-hip scat.

The arrangements by Shaw's long-time collaborator, pianist Adrian York, range from solo piano, a capella, big band, traditional jazz trio and occasional strings; with Tim Wells, bass, and Mark Fletcher, drums. Mornington Lockett and Iain Ballamy, tenor saxes, provide jazzy comments and swing; and Matthew Barley, cello, adds tender counterpoint. Hard to believe this was recorded at Ronnie Scott's Club in London. --- Dave Burns, jazztimes.com
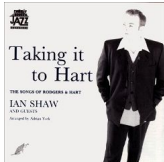
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