

Frank Sinatra - A Voice on Air (1935-1955) CD1 (2015)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 04 January 2016 16:50 -

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01 – Vintage Radio Tuning In / Major Bowes' Show Opening / S-H-I-N-E 02 – Fred Allen Introduces Frank Sinatra and the Four Sharps / Exactly Like You 03 – Moon Love (live) 04 – Fame and Fortune Show Opening: I'm Getting Sentimental Over You / Marie 05 – Deep Night 06 – Ruth Lowe Interview / I'll Never Smile Again / Fame and Fortune Show Opening: I'm Getting Sentimental Over You 07 – Frenesi 08 – East of the Sun (And West of the Moon) 09 – Carnival de Broadway Opening: I'm Getting Sentimental Over You / The One I Love 10 – Say It / Carnival de Broadway Closing: I'm Getting Sentimental Over You 11 – She's Funny That Way 12 – I Don't Believe in Rumors 13 – Medley: I'll String Along With You / As Time Goes By 14 – That Old Black Magic 15 – I Heard You Cried Last Night 16 – For Me and My Gal 17 – Moonlight Mood 18 – There Are Such Things 19 – Broadway Bandbox Show Opening / All or Nothing at All (orchestral) 20 – My Heart Stood Still 21 – The Right Kind of Love 22 – Close to You (orchestral) 23 – As Time Goes By (rehearsal) 24 – It's De-Lovely 25 – Nature's Remedy Commercial

Frank Sinatra: A Voice on Air (1935-1955), a historic 100+ track, 4-CD deluxe box set culled from an invaluable collection of rare radio broadcasts and rehearsals immaculately restored from the original recording masters for unprecedented high-fidelity sound.

This breathtaking overview charts Frank Sinatra's evolution as a vocalist, and includes samples of his radio work from the first twenty years of his amazing career, from his first radio performance in 1935 (singing "S-H-I-N-E" with the Hoboken Four) to his last weekly series in 1955 (The Frank Sinatra Show, featuring ultra-rare performances with an in-studio quintet). From beginning to end, Frank Sinatra: A Voice on Air (1935-1955) envelops the listener in the atmosphere surrounding the creation of these masterful radio performances in the 1930s, '40s and '50s.

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Meticulously restored and remastered in high-resolution from the original glass and aluminum radio transcription discs and magnetic tape masters these vintage, historic recordings most of them unheard since their original broadcast in the 1940s and 1950s sound more rich and vibrant than ever before. All of the warmth and vibrancy that are hallmarks of Frank Sinatra's vocal brilliance have been preserved, and showcased with unprecedented fidelity. ---Editorial Reviews, amazon.com

Filling in a gap in Frank Sinatra's history, Legacy's 2015 box A Voice on Air collects over 100 radio broadcasts recorded between 1935 and 1955. This is the first collection to chronicle this era -- over 90 of its 100 tracks are previously unreleased -- and it's pulled from a variety of sources, including the Sinatra estate's vaults, the Library of Congress, and the Paley Center for Media, each strand assisting in sterling re-creations of original broadcasts from Frank's bobbysocks days, World War II, and the nascent saloon singer of the '50s. Sinatra wound up singing some of these songs in the studio but not necessarily in these arrangements, a wrinkle that would be tantalizing enough but a good portion of A Voice on Air is devoted to songs he only sang on the air. Some of these are little more than novelties -- the flashiest being "(Li'l Abner) Don't Marry That Gal," a song co-written by cartoonist Al Capp cashing in on his hit strip -- and there is a fair share of duets, with both musicians (Nat King Cole, Slim Gaillard) and cultural figures (Gov. Jimmie Davis comes in to sing his "You Are My Sunshine"). Part of the appeal of this set is how the very fact that it's grounded in specific years accentuates transience: there are jokes that need footnotes, broadcasts from World War II, commercials for cigarettes, and other musty conventions that never quite seep onto Sinatra's studio recordings. Here, they're part of the main text. There might be a fair amount of standards peppered throughout the set but they're unwitting anchors for a set that's proudly not timeless. Instead, it showcases a Sinatra on the rise, a singer relying on his inventive phrasing and incandescent charisma, elements that are undeniable and vital even when heard in these appealing old-fashioned surroundings. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

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