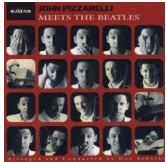


John Pizzarelli - Meets The Beatles (1998)

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John Pizzarelli - Meets The Beatles (1998)



01. *Can't Buy Me Love* [3:37] 02. *I've Just Seen A Face* [2:49] 03. *Here Comes The Sun* [5:05] 04. *Things We Said Today* [4:16] 05. *You've Got To Hide Your Love Away* [3:26] 06. *Eleanor Rigby* [5:03] 07. *And I Love Her* [3:57] 08. *When I'm 64* [2:46] 09. *Oh Darling* [4:04] 10. *Get Back* [4:03] 11. *Long And Winding Road* [3:46] 12. *For No One* [3:11] John Pizzarelli – guitar, vocals Don Sebesky - accordion, conductor, flute, orchestration, strings + Orchestra

Beatles fans love to explain that the key to the successful partnership of John Lennon and Paul McCartney was their contrasting songwriting personalities -- Lennon was the tongue in cheek sardonic wit, McCartney the earnest balladeer. On John Pizzarelli Meets the Beatles, a sharply conceived tribute which sets the duo's classics in a jazz trio with big-band arrangements, the singer/guitarist hits the mark more often when he's taking on the Lennon persona. He approaches "Cant' Buy Me Love," "When I'm 64," and "Get Back" with a playful wink, jumping off his speedy melody lines and the rising brass sections for extended improvisational tradeoffs with pianist Ray Kennedy, and adding colorful touches like scatting and even ad libbing his own lyrical verses based on the originals. Likewise, he attacks the all-instrumental "Eleanor Rigby" with a jumpy, swinging aggression. Pizzarelli, however, becomes overly schmaltzy in presenting ballads like "You've Got to Hide Your Love Away" and "Long and Winding Road" too seriously, with maudlin, straightforward arrangements that grind the party to a halt. The one exception is the more percussive "Oh Darling," where his intense vocal helps the tune rise above the hotel lounge mentality. --- Jonathan Widran, AllMusic Review

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