

The Pasadena Roof Orchestra - Here and Now (2002)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 29 March 2014 16:43 -

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01. *I Can't Dance* (3:00) 02. *Where Or When* (3:32) 03. *Loveable and Sweet* (2:33) 04. *Comes Love* (3:21) 05. *Stealin' Apples* (2:12) 06. *Love Is Good For Anything That Ails Toy* (3:34) 07. *Everybody Loves My Baby* (2:35) 08. *Guilty* (3:34) 09. *I Cried For You* (1:50) 10. *Cherokee* (3:44) 11. *My Romance* (4:32) 12. *Dusky Stevedore* (2:53) 13. *I Can't Give You Anything But Love* (2:11) 14. *Nasty Man* (2:59) 15. *Black and Tan Fantasy* (3:30) 16. *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (3:13) 17. *Deed I Do* (3:24) 18. *South* (2:35) 19. *If I Had You* (4:05) 20. *It Don't Mean A Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing* (3:59) Personnel: Duncan Galloway - (vocals), Louise Cookman - (vocals), David Ford - (trumpet), Dan Hammerton - (trumpet), Steve Shaw - (trombone, vocals), Nik Payton - (saxes, clarinet), Paul Jones - (alto sax, clarinet), Oliver Wilby - (tenor sax, clarinet), Simon Townley - (piano), Andrew Kuc - (guitar, banjo), John Sutton - (drums, leader), David Berry - (double bass), James Pearson - (piano).

I first made the acquaintance of the Pasadena Roof orchestra through a spin-off of theirs - James Langton and his Solid Senders Orchestra. They gave two sensational "last night" concerts at the Snape summer festivals in 2001 and 2002. Langton's band specialised in late 1930s swing, especially the music of Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw. To hear this exhilarating music played live and so well was a wonderful experience. Since then I have collected several discs by the Pasadena Roof Orchestra. They draw on a greater musical repertoire than the Solid Senders and play many hits from the 1920s and less swinging stuff from the 1930s as well as swing standards like "Cherokee". "Here and Now" is the best record of theirs that I have yet to hear. The playing and singing are very good and the selection of numbers is varied, ranging from the very well known to the undeservedly obscure. The recording quality is really excellent. There is a real "You Are There" sensation when the sound bursts out of the speakers. The diction of the singers (Duncan Galloway and Louise Cookson) is also good - you can hear every word - and that is a pretty rare experience these days in any musical genre.

Recommended without reserve for enthusiasts for music of an era when "popular music" was

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actually popular. ---P. H. Cartwright, amazon.com

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