

George Gershwin – Piano Rolls (1994)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Sweet And Lowdown* 2. *Novelette In Fourths* 3. *That Certain Feeling* 4. *So Am I* 5. *Rhapsody In Blue* 6. *Swanee* 7. *When You Want 'Em, You Can't Get 'Em...* 8. *Kickin' The Clouds Away* 9. *Idol Dreams* 10. *On My Mind The Whole Night Long* 11. *Scandal Walk* 12. *An American In Paris*

Imagine hearing George Gershwin play his own compositions in pristine sound! Pianist/scholar Artis Wodehouse transferred the rarest and most desirable of the over 130 piano rolls Gershwin made for player piano to the Yamaha Disklavier, which reproduced Gershwin's own performances on a 9-foot concert grand (or, in the case of *American in Paris*, two concert grands!). ---Editorial Reviews, amazon.com

George Gershwin made 130 piano rolls between 1916-1927; 28 were recorded and released in 1998 on two Nonesuch CDs. This particular release has quite a few obscure Gershwin songs, including his very first tune, "When You Want 'Em, You Can't Get 'Em, When You've Got 'Em, You Don't Want 'Em." Certainly such tunes as "Novelette in Fourths," "So Am I," and "Idle Dreams" are long forgotten but worth reviving. Among the other highlights of the fascinating and highly enjoyable recital are "Sweet and Lowdown," "Swanee" and a 14-minute rendition of "Rhapsody in Blue." The 1933 item is a bit unusual, for it is a two-piano rendition of "An American in Paris" that lasts over 16 minutes and was arranged by Frank Milne. Well worth exploring. ---Scott Yanow, Rovi

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