Sarah Vaughan & Count Basie (1961)

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1. Perdido 2. Lover Man (Oh Where Can You Be?) 3. I Cried for You 4. Alone 5. There Are Such Things 6. Mean to Me 7. The Gentleman Is a Dope 8. You Go to My Head 9. Until I Met You 10. You Turned the Tables on Me 11. Little Man (You've Had a Busy Day) 12. Teach Me Tonight (with Joe Williams) 13. If I Were a Bell (with Joe Williams) 14. Until I Met You Sarah Vaughan - Vocals Count Basie - Piano Sonny Cohn - Trumpet Henry Coker -Trombone Frank Foster - Arranger, Sax (Tenor) Charlie Fowlkes - Flute, Sax (Baritone) Freddie Green - Guitar Al Grey - Trombone Eddie Jones - Bass Thad Jones - Trumpet Billy Mitchell - Sax (Tenor) Joe Newman - Trumpet Sonny Payne - Drums Benny Powell -Trombone Marshall Royal - Clarinet, Sax (Alto) Kirk Stuart - Piano Frank Wess - Flute, Sax (Alto), Sax (Tenor) Joe Williams - Bass, Vocals Snooky Young - Trumpet

Although Count Basie gets top billing, he actually doesn't even appear on this set. Basie's Orchestra and pianist Kirk Stuart are purely in a supporting role behind the magnificent voice of Sarah Vaughan, other than a couple of short spots for trumpeter Joe Newman and Frank Foster's tenor. Sometimes Vaughan sounds overly mannered and seems to give little weight to the words she is singing, but her wide range and impeccable musicianship carry the day. Highlights include "Perdido," "Mean to Me," and "You Go to My Head," and the set is understandably recommended more for Sarah Vaughan fans than Count Basie collectors. [Some reissues add a pair of charming Vaughan duets with Joe Williams, "Teach Me Tonight" and "If I Were a Bell," that were originally released as a single, plus an alternate take of "Until I Met You."] ---scott Yanow, rovi

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