

Stan Kenton and His Orchestra - The World We Know (1967)

Written by bluesever

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*A1 Sunny 3:01 A2 Imagine 3:00 A3 A Man And A Woman 4:43 A4 Theme For Jo 3:30
A5 Interchange 3:02 B1 Invitation 3:18 B2 Girl Talk 4:22 B3 The World We Knew 2:24 B4
This Hotel 2:32 B5 Changing Times 3:28 B6 Gloomy Sunday 4:47* Jim Amlotte Trombone
Dee Barton Drums Monty Budwig Bass Bob Dahl Sax (Tenor) Jay DaVersa Trumpet
Graham Ellis Trombone Bill Fritz Sax (Baritone), Sax (Bass) Stan Kenton Piano Jack
Laubach Trumpet Carl Leach Trumpet John Mitchell Sax (Baritone) Clyde Reasinger
Trumpet Ray Reed Sax (Alto) Alan Rowe Sax (Tenor) Tom Senff Trombone Dick Shearer
Trombone Dalton Smith Trumpet Chino Valdes Bongos, Congas Tom Whittaker Trombone

Remarkably, after over two decades as an active recording artist, Stan Kenton (piano/arranger) could still pull off efforts as interesting as *World We Know* (1968). Combining divergent reworkings of pop music standards with his own undeniably unique originals, Kenton applies his trademark intricate and individual harmonic phrasings. The consistent results bear out his ability to augment his highly stylized arrangements within a framework of familiarity. While there is no mistaking this platter for rock or even what would be considered as 'pop' circa 1968, Kenton's adaptation of Bobby Hebb's soulful "Sunny" is given a spry up-tempo demeanor, building from a bop-influenced piano line to a full-blown big band drill. Similarly, Neal Hefti's "Girl Talk," taken from the film *Harlow* (1965), is also rerouted, bringing out the smouldering and scintillating melody as it perpetually yields to a brash and bouncy conclusion. Another mid-'60s soundtrack-derived side is "Man and a Woman," from the Claude Lelouch film *Un Homme et une Femme* (1966), which has been turned around into an affective, if not somewhat darker piece. Kenton's compositions present his own formidable talents with an equally broad spectrum of sonic techniques. At the heart of "Changing Times," or the moody and romantic "Theme for Jo," is Kenton's uncanny marriage of memorable tunes and interpretive keyboard lines leading the larger ensemble through his voicings and contrasts in tempo. While enthusiasts of the artist's work will undoubtedly be impressed, to modern ears the easy listening orchestration may seem heavy-handed, if not lackluster. In 2003, Collectors' Choice Music continued their reassessment of Kenton's copious catalog, issuing *World We Know* alongside the ten-track *Finian's Rainbow* (1968) long-player onto a two-fer disc, releasing both on CD for

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the first time. ---Lindsay Planer, AllMusic Review

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