

Tony Bennet & Count Basie – The Jazz Masters (1996)

Written by bluesever

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1.Life Is A Song 2.I Guess I'll Have To Change My Plans 3.Jeepers Creepers 4.With Plenty Of Money And You 5.Chicago 6.I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face 7.Poor Little Rich Girl 8.Lester leaps in 9.Anything Goes 10.Are You Havin' Any Fun 11.Growing Pains 12.Jive At Five

Though Bennett's greatest successes came from his relaxed delivery of pop songs, he has more than just an affinity for jazz singing, as his the Jazz Masters has so ably demonstrated. This reissue captures a meetings between Bennett and Basie, at a time when the pianist's band was at a peak, with a fantastic rhythm section, tight and powerful brass, silky reeds, and skillful arrangers like Neal Hefti, who could make the most of those resources. The Basie band was recording with a variety of singers in the period, from Sammy Davis Jr. to Billy Eckstine, but Bennett may have brought the most enthusiasm to the meeting. A great band singer, he mates perfectly with the horn sections on the up-tempo numbers, whether it's the standard "Chicago" or some obscure show tune. He can make a classic ballad, such as "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face," sound fresh, and like the Basie band, Bennett can swing at any tempo. --Stuart Broomer

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