

Tony Bennett and Count Basie - Strike up the Band (1959)

Written by bluesever

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01 - Strike Up The Band [play](#) 02 - I Guess I'll Have To Change My Plans 03 - Chicago 04 - With Plenty Of Money And You 05 - Anything Goes 06 - Life Is A Song 07 - I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face 08 - Jeepers Creepers [play](#) 09 - Growing Pains 10 - Poor Little Rich Girl 11 - Are You Havin' Any Fun

Personnel: Tony Bennett - vocals Ralph Sharon - piano The Count Basie Orchestra: Count Basie - pianist, leader Thad Jones, Snooky Young, Wendell Culley, Joe Newman - trumpet Charlie Fowlkes - baritone saxophone Frank Foster, Billy Mitchell - tenor saxophone Frank Wess, Marshall Royal - alto saxophone Benny Powell, Henry Coker, Al Grey - trombone Freddie Green - guitar Eddie Jones - bass Sonny Payne - drums

Tony Bennett recorded two albums with Count Basie and His Orchestra under a contractual agreement giving one of the records to Bennett's label, Columbia, and the other to Basie's, Roulette. The Columbia album, In Person!, was released once, while the Roulette album, initially issued under the title Strike Up The Band, has been re-released by various labels under various titles endlessly. This is one of those reissues, and while one may deplore the duplicitous marketing scheme, the pairing between Bennett and Basie remains impressive. The band raves through tunes like "With Plenty Of Money And You," and Bennett matches them, drawing strength from the bravura arrangements, while band and singer achieve a knowing tenderness on "Growing Pains." This is an album well worth owning; just make sure you don't buy it twice.

---William Ruhlmann, AMG

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