

JUST PASSING THROUGH: THE BREITHAAPT BROTHERS SONGBOOK VOL. II

— THE FINEST VOICES IN JAZZ AND POP TACKLE A MODERN SONGBOOK WORTHY OF THE NAME —

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SARAH SLEAN
RON SEXSMITH
PAUL SHAFFER
KELLYLEE EVANS
MARC JORDAN
JACKIE RICHARDSON
DENZAL SINCLAIRE
EMILIE-CLAIRE BARLOW
IAN THOMAS
SOPHIE MILMAN
LAILA BIALI
PATRICIA O'CALLAGHAN
HEATHER BAMBRICK
TYLEY ROSS
MONKEY HOUSE



Call them "modern standards." The compositions of the prolific and terrific songwriting team of Don & Jeff Breithaupt are clearly modeled on the classics of that golden age of songwriting represented by the Great American Songbook. Like such role models as the Gershwins, Rodgers & Hart, Hoagy Carmichael and Cole Porter, these talented siblings devote themselves to the marriage of lovingly crafted melodies and well-honed lyrics, arranged intricately, sung by the cream of the crop of the pop and jazz singers of the era.

Don Breithaupt explains: "When Jeff and I started writing together, there were records by people like Rod Stewart and Natalie Cole, all doing Songbook standards written anywhere from 50 to 80 years ago. We thought, 'why isn't anyone now contributing to that songbook?' We just thought it'd be fun to come up with new material in that vein, and we deliberately used those building blocks." Like so many classic songwriting teams, there is a strict division of roles amongst the Breithaupt Brothers: "I'm the composer and Jeff is the lyricist," says Don. "He can play well enough to write music, but I do that. I can and do write lyrics, but not in this partnership. It works for us."

A decade of creative collaboration has come to full fruition on *Just Passing Through: The Breithaupt Brothers Songbook Vol. II*. This sparkling new album features a star-studded

group of A-list Canadian vocalists putting their own distinctive stamp on carefully selected material by the brothers B. Just check out this elite crew, one featuring many Grammy and Juno Award winners, platinum-selling and internationally acclaimed artists: **Kellylee Evans, Denzal Sinclair, Emilie-Claire Barlow, Ron Sexsmith, Jackie Richardson, Heather Bambrick, Marc Jordan, Paul Shaffer, Sophie Milman, Laila Biali, Sarah Slean, Monkey House, Patricia O'Callaghan, Ian Thomas and Tyley Ross.** Whew!

Don Breithaupt is quick to stress that "this isn't just one of those 'special guests' compilations you see out there. We have been working with a lot of these people for almost the whole period of our collaboration. They have often done other songs of ours live. We have worked very hard at getting the right people." Real care was taken to get the ideal match of singer and song on the album: "Jeff calls it casting. We have hundreds of songs to work with, and he put out feelers to people we had a relationship with. When we got a definitive 'yes,' we'd come up with a few songs we thought each singer would be good for, and then we'd see which one they picked. That's how we got our shortlist."



With casting and song selection complete, recording began. Some took place in New York City, to accommodate such expats as Shaffer, Biali and Ross. The bulk of the album was recorded at elite Toronto studio The Drive Shed, with Don Breithaupt producing in tandem with engineer John "Beetle" Bailey (Serena Ryder, Molly Johnson). "We had the luxury of cutting bed tracks live off the floor, bringing in each person to sing, then thinking about other layers we could add, like a sax or a cello or whatever suited that tune," Don explains. "The danger in writing torch-song style material is you end up with too many piano ballads. We were adamant about having at least a half-dozen mid-tempo or fast songs on there. It was so much fun to invent the arrangements and customize things to the singers. Much of the material was jazzy and theatrical originally, but you wouldn't put Ron Sexsmith in that setting. So we invented this oddball acoustic version of what was a jazz ballad, adding some cowboy guitar." (The result is the delightfully tender "Any Day Now.") On "Missing Me," Sarah Slean reaffirms her mastery on a tune that incorporates gently swelling strings, haunting trumpet and almost classical piano to sublime effect. Comic relief is provided by Paul Shaffer's boisterous version of "Bad Influence," an ode to a man happily caught in the tender trap. A few highlights from an album devoid of lowlights...

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- 01 WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
- 02 SONGS FOR SWINGIN' LOVERS
- 03 BETWEEN ME AND MY HEART
- 04 ANY DAY NOW
- 05 JUST PASSING THROUGH
- 06 (I'D LIKE TO THINK) MAYBE HE LOVES ME
- 07 THE ANGELS' SHARE
- 08 BAD INFLUENCE
- 09 GHOST WRITER
- 10 WONDER BOY
- 11 MISSING ME
- 12 WHERE'S MANTIS EVAR?
- 13 LAST CALL FOR LOVERS
- 14 NOT YOU
- 15 THE STYLE TO WHICH I'VE BECOME ACCUSTOMED

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