

artists as Louis Armstrong and Count Basie. She also performed several times with Frank Sinatra over the years as well. In 1960, Fitzgerald actually broke into the pop charts with her rendition of "Mack the Knife." She was still going strong well into the '70s, playing concerts across the globe. One especially memorable concert series from this time was a two-week engagement in New York City in 1974 with Frank Sinatra and Count Basie.

By the 1980s, Fitzgerald had begun to experience serious health problems. She had heart surgery in 1986, and then discovered she had diabetes. The disease left her blind, and she had both legs amputated in 1994. She made her last recording in 1989 and her last public performance in 1991 at New York's Carnegie Hall. Ella Fitzgerald died on June 15, 1996, at her home in Beverly Hills.

In all, Fitzgerald recorded more than 200 albums and some 2,000 songs in her lifetime. Her total record sales exceeded 40 million. Her many accolades included 13 Grammy Awards, the NAACP Image Award for Lifetime Achievement and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

While some critics complained that her style and voice lacked the depth of some her more bluesy counterparts, her success and the respect she garnered from the biggest names in the music industry showed that Fitzgerald was in a class all her own.



ELLA
FITZGERALD
SINGS SONGS
FROM THE
SOUNDTRACK
OF



A COLUMBIA PICTURES RELEASE · A BORIS D. KAPLAN PRODUCTION

Starring BURL IVES · SHELLEY WINTERS · JAMES DARREN
JEAN SEBERG · RIVARDO MONTALBAN
and ELLA FITZGERALD



This is a most unusual Ella Fitzgerald recording. Recorded around the time when she performed some of these songs for the film *Let No Man Write My Epitaph*, the masterful singer is heard in duets with pianist Paul Smith interpreting 13 songs (even "I Cried for You," "I Can't Give You Anything But Love," and "Who's Sorry Now?") at slow expressive tempos. Listeners who feel that Ella Fitzgerald was mostly a scat singer who had trouble giving the proper emotional intensity to lyrics will be surprised by this sensitive and often-haunting set.

Born on April 25, 1917, in Newport News, Virginia, singer Ella Fitzgerald was the product of a common-law marriage between William Fitzgerald and Temperance "Tempie" Williams Fitzgerald. Ella experienced a troubled childhood that began with her parents separating just a month after her birth.

With her mother, Fitzgerald moved to Yonkers, New York. They lived there with her mother's boyfriend, Joseph De Sailva. The family grew in 1923 with the arrival of Fitzgerald's half-sister Frances. Struggling financially, she helped her family out by working as a messenger "running numbers" and acting as a lookout for a brothel. Her first career aspiration was to become a dancer.

After her mother's death in 1932, Fitzgerald ended up moving in with an aunt. She started skipping school. Fitzgerald was then sent to a special

reform school, but she didn't stay there long. By 1934, Ella was trying to make it on her own and living on the streets. Still harboring dreams of becoming an entertainer, she entered an amateur contest at Harlem's Apollo Theater. She sang the Hoagy Carmichael tune "Judy" and wowed the audience. Fitzgerald performed a second song and went on to win the contest's \$25 first place prize.

The 1950s and '60s proved to be a time of critical and commercial success for Fitzgerald. She even earned the moniker "First Lady of Song" for her mainstream popularity and unparalleled vocal talents. Her unique ability to mimicking instrumental sounds helped popularize the vocal improvisation of "scatting" which became her signature technique. In 1955, Fitzgerald began recording for Granz's newly created Verve Records. She made some of her most popular albums for Verve, starting out with 1956's *Ella Fitzgerald Sings the Cole Porter Song Book*. At the very first Grammy Awards in 1958, Fitzgerald picked up her first two Grammys—and made history as the first African-American woman to win a Grammy—for best individual jazz performance and best female vocal performance, respectively, for the two songbook projects *Ella Fitzgerald Sings the Duke Ellington Song Book* and *Ella Fitzgerald Sings the Irving Berlin Song Book*; she worked directly with Ellington on the former album.

A truly collaborative soul, Fitzgerald produced great recordings with such

Ella Fitzgerald Sings

Songs From Let No Man Write My Epitaph

- 1 Black Coffee 3:27
- 2 Angel Eyes 3:27
- 3 I Cried For You 3:26
- 4 I Can't Give You Anything But Love, Baby 3:28
- 5 Then You've Never Been Blue 3:10
- 6 I Hadn't Anyone 'Till You 2:49
- 7 My Melancholy Baby 2:57
- 8 Misty 2:51
- 9 September Song 3:40
- 10 One For My Baby (And One More For The Road) 4:17
- 11 Who's Sorry Now 3:26
- 12 I'm Getting Sentimental Over You 2:36
- 13 Reach For Tomorrow 2:24

Supervised By - Norman Granz
Recorded by Verve April 14 - 19, 1960.