

Nelson Riddle: 1921-1985 Considered by many as one of the greatest arrangers in the history of American popular music, Nelson Riddle was and is still well known for his talents. Having arranged for and played with big band greats Charlie Spivak and Tommy Dorsey in the 40's, he found his own sound in working with many famous vocalists from the 50's into the 80's: Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee, Dean Martin, Rosemary Clooney, and Linda Ronstadt. He also composed for movies and TV. While there were several good arrangers in the 50's and 60's, Nelson Riddle stands out as probably the most prolific, as illustrated by "Laugh In" hosts Rowan and Martin who would periodically punctuate their comedic dialogue with "arranged by Nelson Riddle."



Ella Fitzgerald

with
Nelson Riddle
and his
Orchestra

Volume II

MASTERING EQUIPMENT

*Digital: Antelope Audio Eclipse 384
Antelope Audio Isochrone 10M Rubidium atomic reference generator*

Korg MR2000 DSD recorder

Weiss Saracon Sample Rate Conversion Software

Weiss POW-r Dithering Software

*Analog: Studer 810 Reel to Reel with
Custom by JRF Magnetics & Siltech wiring
Nagra 4S custom by JRF Magnetics*

*Aria tape head pre-amp by ATR Services
deHavilland Model 222 Tape Pre-amplifier
Retro Instruments 2A3 Dual-channel tube program equalizer
Sontec MEP-250EX Parametric EQs*

*VPI Classic Turntable w/ Benz Wood Cartridge
Rogue Audio Phone Pre-amp*

*Power Sources: PS Audio P10 Power Plant
and Power Plant 300*

*Power Cords: Purist Audio Design, Essential Sound Products,
Speltz Anti-Cables*

*Vibration Control: Symposium Acoustics Rollerblocks,
Ultra platforms, Svelte shelves*

*Sonic Studio CD.1 Professional CD Burner
using Mitsui Gold Archival CD's*

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 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.

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- 1-"Sweet and Slow" (Al Dubin, Harry Warren) – 3:15
- 2-"Georgia On My Mind" (Hoagy Carmichael, Stuart Gorrell) – 3:29
- 3-"I Can't Get Started" (Vernon Duke, Ira Gershwin) – 3:33
- 4-"Street of Dreams" (Sam M. Lewis, Victor Young) – 3:12
- 5-"Imagination" (Johnny Burke, Jimmy Van Heusen) – 3:47
- 6-"The Very Thought of You" (Ray Noble) – 2:46
- 7-"It's a Blue World" (George Forrest, Robert C. Wright) – 2:44
- 8-"Darn That Dream" (Eddie DeLange, Van Heusen) – 2:31
- 9-"She's Funny That Way" (Neil Moret, Richard A. Whiting) – 3:14
- 10-"I Wished on the Moon" (Dorothy Parker, Ralph Rainger) – 2:44
- 11-"It's a Pity to Say Goodnight" (Mack Gordon, Billy Reid) – 2:34
- 12-"My One and Only Love" (Robert Mellin, Guy Wood) – 3:12
- 13T-"Body and Soul" (Frank Eyton, Johnny Green, Edward Heyman, Robert Sour) – 3:44

Please Note: In the interest of preserving the superb sound quality of these historic recordings, they have been preserved in their original, pristine state for maximum fidelity. Transferred from commercially released, analog reel-to-reel tapes (some of which are more than 50 years old), the recordings themselves can be subject to certain "artifacts" which are an inseparable part of the original analog recording process, such as tape "hiss" or other defects, and these may be audible on certain music tracks. Because your CD or DVD-A was individually "burned" in order to realize superior sound quality to stamped, mass-produced versions, microscopic cosmetic blemishes may be visible. Please regard these tiny marks as evidence of the "human touch" in the care and individual attention that each and every HDTT disc receives during its very demanding manufacturing process.



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