



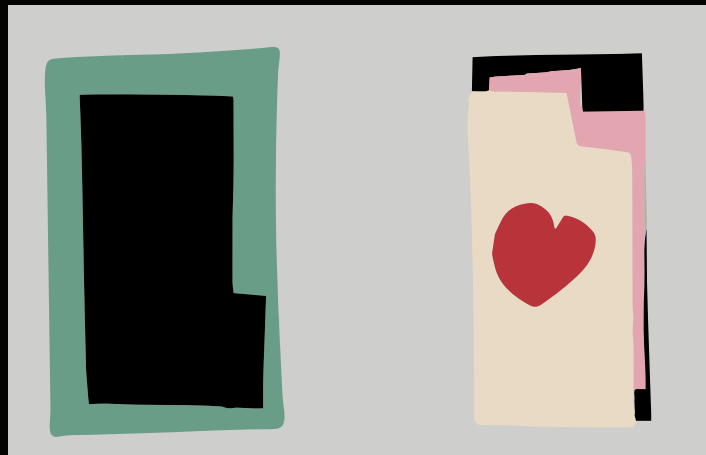
Helen Merrill

the feeling is mutual

HELEN MERRILL together with **DICK KATZ**

Ron Carter
Thad Jones
Arnie Wise
Pete LaRoca
Jim Hall

arrangements by Dick Katz



Mastered in DSD256

Merrill is just like another one of the instrumentalists on each date, improvising and conveying her emotions without overdoing it. The first nine selections are from the 1965 LP *The Feeling Is Mutual*, with guitarist Jim Hall, bassist Ron Carter, cornetist Thad Jones, and either Pete La Roca or Arnie Wise on drums. Most of the initial album focuses on standards, highlighted by a poignant take of "Here's That Rainy Day" and a subtle arrangement of Billie Holiday's "Don't Explain." In addition to familiar songs, the musicians tackled Alec Wilder's bitter-sweet ballad "The Winter of My Discontent" and Hoagy Carmichael's loping "Baltimore Oriole," both of which were new to all of them, with Merrill and company delivering effective interpretations.

A fine singer with a warm, expressive voice, Helen Merrill's infrequent recordings tend to be quite special with plenty of surprises and chance-taking. She started singing in public in 1944 and was with the Reggie Childs

Orchestra during 1946-1947. Merrill, who was married for a period to clarinetist Aaron Sachs, had opportunities to sit in with some of the top modernists of the time, including Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, and Bud Powell. She was with Earl Hines in 1952 and started recording regularly for EmArcy in 1954. Her collaboration with Clifford Brown was her first classic. She made several notable EmArcy albums during 1954-1958 (including one in 1956 that helped bring Gil Evans out of retirement); all have been reissued in a large box. After recording for Atco and Metrojazz in 1959, she moved to Italy for the next four years, touring often in Europe and Japan. Back in the U.S., Merrill teamed with pianist/arranger Dick Katz for a pair of notable and unpredictable Milestone dates (1967-1968) and then moved to Japan where she was quite popular. Helen Merrill returned to the United States in the mid-'70s and has since recorded for Inner City, Owl, EmArcy (including a reunion date with Gil Evans) Antilles, and Verve, which released her 2000 album *Jelena Ana Milcetic* a.k.a. Helen Merrill.

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1 You're My Thrill 3:14

2 It Don't Mean A Thing 4:56

3 Here's That Rainy Day 2:38

4 Baltimore Oriole 4:48

5 Don't Explain 2:34

6 What Is This Thing Called Love? 3:38

7 The Winter Of My Discontent 6:01

8 Day Dream 5:12

9 Deep In A Dream 3:12

Recording Info: Recorded in New York in 1965 by Milestone Records

Recorded By – Ray Hall

Supervised By – George Avakian



For more info e-mail us:
admin@highdeftapetransfers.com
or visit our website:
www.highdeftapetransfers.com