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Mel Tormé/Gerry Mulligan/George Shearing

The Classic Concert Live

CONCORD 2227

★★★★

Recorded in June 1982, *The Classic Concert Live* presents three giants of jazz performing together on a night filled with laughter, mischief and music. While this wasn't the first time the trio of Mel Tormé, Gerry Mulligan and George Shearing had shared the stage, this previously unreleased concert recording captures perhaps their finest moments together.

Transforming the spacious expanse of New York's Carnegie Hall into the intimate atmosphere that is captured on this recording is no small task, but these three performers have the sort of gifted rapport as musicians and friends to make such feats of impossible alchemy seem like second nature. Tormé is in rare form, rendering cuts like the lyrically updated Mulligan classic "Jeru" and the Antonio Carlos Jobim composition "Wave" with grace and humor, while "What Are You Doing The Rest Of Your Life" and "Round Midnight" become sublime studies of his ability to turn a ballad like few others before or since his passing.

The trademark lyrical tone of Mulligan's unmistakable baritone saxophone pairs perfectly with Tormé's rich voice throughout but is beautifully exemplified on Mulligan's "Line For Lyons." Likewise, Shearing's ubiquitous contributions from the piano bench tastefully match the stylistic idiosyncrasies of his performing partners. —John Kreicbergs

The Classic Concert Live: I've Heard That Song Before; I Sent For You Yesterday And Here You Come Today; Jeru; Duke Ellington Medley (Don't Get Around Much Anymore/Just Squeeze Me (But Don't Tease Me)/ Let A Song Go Out Of My Heart/C Jam Blues/Don't Get Around Much Anymore); What Are You Doing The Rest Of Your Life; Walkin' Shoes; Round Midnight; Line For Lyons; Talk; Wave/Agua De Beber; Blues In The Night; The Song Ended (But The Melody Lingers On); Lady Be Good. (65.08)

Personnel: Mel Tormé, vocals; Gerry Mulligan, baritone saxophone, vocals; George Shearing, piano, vocals; Don Thompson, piano, bass; Gerry Mulligan Orchestra: Chuck Wilson, Mike Migliore, Gary Keller, Tom Boras, saxophones; Laurie Frink, Mike Carubia, Chris Rogers, Gary Guzio, trumpets; Rick Chamberlain, Dave Glenn, Jim Daniels, trombones; Mitchell Forman, piano; Frank Luther, bass; Richie DeRosa, drums.

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