

New Issues



MAUREEN KENNEDY
OUT OF THE
SHADOWS
BASIN STREET MUSIC 212

MY ONE AND ONLY / IF
YOU GO / I DON'T STAND A
GHOST OF A CHANCE WITH
YOU / CLOUDY MORNING /
THERE'S A LULL IN MY LIFE
/ I KNOW WHY AND SO DO
YOU / SHIP WITHOUT A SAIL
/ MY LITTLE BROWN BOOK
/ I'M JUST A LUCKY SO AND
SO / JUST FOR NOW / KISS
AND RUN / HOW CAN WE
BE WRONG / YESTERDAYS
56:42.

Maureen Kennedy, vcl; Reg
Schwager, g; Steve Wallace,
b; Mike Murley, ts; Andrew
Miller, d. 2/13-14/ 2009,
Toronto, Canada.

Maureen Kennedy's new release, her first since 2005 ("This Is Always" - Baldwin Street 210), is an exemplar of the sort of sang-froid we came to expect from singers like Irene Kral and/or June Christy in their respective heydays, but the good news is that this singer's vocal instincts seem to provoke her into most often transcending her admirable self-possession and just naturally weighing a lyric with intelligence and dramatic perspective. Thus, her reading of Larry Hart's mournful SHIP WITHOUT lyric is absolutely perfect. Producer Ted Ono apparently assisted Ms. K. in compiling a program which avoids what he refers to, in his notes, as "over-recorded 'super' standards." This probably accounts for the inclusion of titles such as CLOUDY and Billy Strayhorn's BROWN BOOK. But, the topper is a genuine Dietz & Schwartz gem - HOW CAN WE - which, as far as I can determine, was last recorded with vocal in 1938 when Pha Terrell sang it on an Andy Kirk recording.

Mike Murley's tough-but-tender tenor is a most welcome asset to the session, and his contributions to SHIP and BOOK are particularly notable. In the end, however, it is Maureen Kennedy's subtle phrasing, steady intonation, and meticulous attention to interpretive detail which make this a superior Jazz / Cabaret CD, one of this year's very best.

Alan Bargebuhr