

Songs of Sinatra

Steve Tyrell

I never met Frank Sinatra, but I wish I had.

Frank created a genre of musical expression that has remained timeless and everlasting, and unlike the disposable pop culture of today will live forever as long as it has a chance to be heard. Frank Sinatra and his music have no expiration date; they are always cool and current. He sang the great songs and expressed the words in a way that makes the listener understand the intentions of the songwriter.

I only met the Sinatra family after I started to make my standards albums. I received a very complimentary message after my second album "Standard Time" from Frank Sinatra, Jr. He told me how much he liked my first two albums and encouraged me to continue doing what I was doing. He complimented my vocal approach, my arrangements and the musicians I chose to use on those albums, many of whom he knew personally and had worked with his father.

Nancy Sinatra had also gone way out of her way to encourage me and compliment my standards albums. We have become great friends and have often played the same venues around the country as I have also done with Frank, Jr.

Tina was the next family member to encourage me, and we have become very good friends. She comes to my performances and has always referred to my albums and performances "as me keeping their music alive." Imagine, me keeping Frank's music alive: quite an encouraging statement, but that's what Tina, Frank and Nancy have told me ever since I started making my standards albums.

Earlier this year, Tina invited me to her birthday party at one of her favorite Beverly Hills restaurants. I sat next to Quincy Jones and across from Tina. They told me during dinner that Frank Sinatra was to be inducted into The Hollywood Bowl Hall Of Fame on opening night of the season, and they would like Quincy to conduct his arrangement of "Fly Me To The Moon" with the Hollywood Bowl orchestra and Quincy asked me to sing it with him.

I was worried at first that no one would want to hear anyone else sing Q's famous arrangement of that song and I suggested he do it instrumentally. He said, "Hey man, don't worry, you'll break it up out there!" Quincy is one of my musical idols and also the coolest dude I have ever known. If Q says it's gonna be OK then there's nothing to worry about. So I said "OK, let's do it," and we just went out there and had a lot of fun. He was right. The Bowl audience loved what we did and that was how we got the idea to do an entire album of the Songs of Sinatra.

It was easy to select the songs. These are some of my favorites, but there are enough great Sinatra songs that I could do 10 albums and not run out of favorites. My approach to recording these great Sinatra standards was to try to modernize them some what, but at the same time pay tribute to the original feel and vibe.

I've studied Frank's phrasing and his great arrangements on all these songs, and it's like going to the University of Higher Music. Although the Sinatra family offered me the use of any of Frank's original arrangements, I thought it appropriate only to use Quincy's chart of "Fly Me To The Moon" (because we had played it together at the Bowl) and Sy Oliver's 1961 chart of "The One I Love Belongs To Somebody Else," which was Frank, Jr.'s idea (and the one he sings with me on the album). I also wanted to do a duet with my daughter Lauryn and use Ernie Freeman's 1967

original arrangement that he wrote for Frank and Nancy. The rest of the arrangements were written just for this album.

I love this CD. I am more proud of it musically and vocally than of anything I have ever done. I can't wait for people to experience it. I am committed to playing live as much as I can to support my own music. This is what brings me the most satisfaction and what I believe is my true calling. I plan to constantly be on the road now and to play my music live everywhere in the world that I can be booked. I am currently on tour in the US until March 2006, and so far this year I have also toured abroad in Japan and Russia.

I am so happy to see that there is a renaissance taking place today with this music. It is important that a new generation be exposed to these great gems. They don't write songs like this anymore. This is real music! The art of expressing your desire and needs without being crude or obvious is seen best in the songs Frank chose to sing. I believe these songs are America's greatest contribution to the arts.

Songs of Sinatra

The Tracks

"I Get A Kick Out Of You"

This Cole Porter song is one that I have wanted to record for the past couple of albums. Bob Mann's arrangement and Lee Musiker's great jazz piano solo are highlights of this track. Note: Lee is Tony Bennett's pianist and musical director.

"I Concentrate On You"

This is another great Cole Porter song that Frank recorded two different ways. One version he did with a big band; the other he recorded with Antonio Carlos Jobim on his famous samba album. My version pays tribute to the Jobim version and features a very talented and beautiful young New York Jazz Singer named Hilary Kole.

"Fly Me To The Moon"

This wonderful kick ass arrangement by Quincy Jones is one of Sinatra's most famous arrangements. The thing that makes it special on my album is that the trumpet solo features 84-year-old Clark Terry, who was Quincy's mentor and helped Q get started when he was a kid learning the trumpet and arranging. It was Clark, as Q writes in his autobiography, who played Quincy's first arrangement with Duke Ellington's band. He writes it was not very good but Terry didn't tell young Quincy that.

"Witchcraft"

The music of this signature Sinatra song was written by my late friend Cy Coleman. He was a great American composer whom I had the pleasure of knowing and working closely with in the past couple of years on a show he wrote with my friends Alan and Marilyn Bergman entitled "Portraits In Jazz". This track also features another outstanding solo from jazz legend Clark Terry. Cy, Alan & Marilyn's show is being produced for Broadway.

"In The Wee Small Hours"

This lonely soulful Sinatra ballad is my favorite song on the album to sing. Allan Broadbent's beautiful orchestral arrangement touches the hearts of all who have heard it. Tina Sinatra told me it made her cry. Frank told me it was his favorite vocal of mine ever.

"The One I Love Belongs To Somebody Else"

This track is truly the highlight of the album. It was Frank, Jr., who came up with the idea to do this song, and he brought in the original Sy Oliver arrangement and put the track together for me at Capital Studios where so many of his father's original sessions took place. He taught me the song and sang Oliver's original part, which Sy sang with Frank Sr. on the original

recording. Frank Sinatra Jr. is a great musician who was his dad's musical director for many years and is also a wonderful singer and artist in his own right. What a treat it was for me to do this tune with him and hear all the stories of the original sessions that took place at Capitol.

"I've Got You Under My Skin"

This signature Sinatra classic is a good example of how Bob Mann and Allan Broadbent's arrangement captures the original feel but at the same time modernizes this great Cole Porter song and brings it into the 21st Century.

"Bewitched Bothered & Bewildered"

This is one of the most beautiful of all the Rodgers and Hart songs, and I love singing it. The melody and lyrics are unparalleled in pop music. Allan Broadbent's arrangement and my friend Dave Koz's beautiful saxophone solo are featured here.

"Night and Day"

This is another classic Cole Porter /Frank Sinatra collaboration which gave me my first opportunity to work with the legendary 82-year-old Count Basie arranger Sammie Nestico. I was surprised when he told me he had always wanted to do an arrangement of "Night and Day," and in all his years of writing great arrangements he had never done this song. Well, now he has and quite an arrangement it is!

"All The Way"

This is another great Sinatra signature song written by his friends and long time collaborators Sammy Cahn & Jimmy Van Heusen. I have become very good friends with Tita Cahn, Sammy's widow, who has continuously encouraged me throughout my standards career. Allan Broadbent's orchestra and Bob Mann's soulful electric guitar playing are what to listen for here.

"Nice and Easy"

I believe this is the most modern of all the arrangements on the album. This classic Sinatra song was written by my good friends (multiple Oscar, Emmy and Grammy winning writers) Alan and Marilyn Bergman. It was not only a hit single for Mr. S., but at the time, was also the title of his biggest selling album to date. I loved inviting Alan and Marilyn down to the studio when we were recording this song. They shared with me the first time they ever came to Capitol Studios as kids to meet Frank and hear him sing this same song in the same studio we were recording it in all these years later. How cool is that ! We have Alan on videotape talking about that first session.

"Something Stupid"

This, of course, is the most personal track to me on the album, as I get to sing this song with my daughter Lauryn. I always loved the thought of hearing Frank and his daughter Nancy singing together so I wanted to do use the same Ernie Freeman arrangement and sing it with my little girl, just as Frank did with his in 1967.

"All Of Me"

Another great Sammie Nestico arrangement of a classic Sinatra song.

"You Go To My Head"

The most haunting ballad on the album and a song I have wanted to record for quite a while. It was my friend Lorraine Bracco's idea for me to do this song for a few years now and she told me if I didn't do it on this album she would send Tony Soprano after me. Seriously, I am really happy with the way it came out. It's one of my favorites. Allan Broadbent's arrangement and Roy Hargrove's soulful flugelhorn solo are spectacular!

STEVE TYRELL

Steve Tyrell has also had a long illustrious career behind the scenes. He is a Grammy winning producer and has been nominated three times for an Emmy. Steve's various productions have included collaborations with such superstar artists as Rod Stewart, Elton John, Bette Midler, Dolly Parton, Chaka Khan, Diana Ross, Linda Ronstadt, Aaron Neville, Ray Charles, Bonnie Raitt and James Ingram just to name a few. Steve's songs have been recorded by artists as diverse as Ray Charles, Diana Ross, Elvis Presley and LL Cool J. His song "How Do You Talk To An Angel" written for the Fox television series "The Heights" became a number one pop song in Billboard's Hot 100 Chart.

Steve has also worked extensively in films as an artist, music producer and music supervisor. His film credits include "Something's Gotta Give", "Father of The Bride I & II", "That Thing You Do" and "An American Tale". Steve is currently working on Adam Sandler's new film "Click."

"Songs Of Sinatra" is Steve Tyrell's fifth solo album. All four previous albums have attained top 3 chart positions on Billboard's Jazz Chart. His last album, "This Guy's In Love," debuted at number 2 on the Billboard chart in October 2003.

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