

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

Presents

EMBRACEABLE YOU

AS RECORDED BY ELLA FITZGERALD

ARRANGED BY NELSON RIDDLE

PREPARED BY DYLAN CANTERBURY, ROB DUBOFF AND JEFFREY SULTANOF

FULL SCORE

FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT

JLP-9469

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY GEORGE GERSHWIN AND IRA GERSHWIN

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A NOT-FOR-PROFIT JAZZ RESEARCH ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PRESERVING AND PROMOTING AMERICA'S MUSICAL HERITAGE.



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EMBRACEABLE YOU (1959)

Background:

Ella Fitzgerald was born on April 25, 1917, in Newport News, VA. She began her climb to becoming the 'First Lady of Song' with the Chick Webb Orchestra in New York City in 1935. Following Webb's death in 1939, she became the focal point of the band. She continued her Swing Era ascent with several bands during the early-to-mid 1940s, and later honed her famous scat singing during her time with the Dizzy Gillespie Big Band. She showed the world that she could eloquently adapt her vocal prowess to any style of jazz, developing her scat style to accentuate bebop and act as another improvising horn in the band.

In 1947, Ella married bassist Ray Brown, with whom she fell in love while both were with Gillespie. Brown was working on producer/impresario Norman Granz's Jazz at the Philharmonic tours, and Granz signed her on, later becoming her manager. By the mid 1950s, reaching the peak of her powers, Ella had become very comfortable with bebop; perhaps too much so. She began to thirst for new challenges, and Granz helped influence her to begin her Songbook series, which would ultimately encompass eight sessions from 1956-1964, using the arrangers Nelson Riddle, Billy May, Paul Weston, Buddy Bregman, and the team of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn on their Songbook record. Granz's idea was to record albums that would each take an in-depth, fresh look at the music of one of America's greatest 20th century composers or composing teams, beginning with Cole Porter in 1956. These recordings became an unprecedented look at the Great American Songbook and viewed together are seen as one of the great landmarks of 20th century American music.

In 1959, arranger Nelson Riddle was at the top of the arranging world, internationally famous, having worked with Nat King Cole, Judy Garland, and others, and was best-known for arranging some of the all-time greatest works of Frank Sinatra, including *Songs for Swingin' Lovers* and *A Swingin' Affair*. Riddle and Fitzgerald had never worked together, and their musical marriage was a seemingly obvious one, especially for a canon such as that of the Gershwins. Recorded in several sessions during the first seven months of 1959, the project became the largest of Fitzgerald's career, and was further enhanced by the support of Ira Gershwin, who apparently contributed lyrics to some songs which had previously lacked them in finished form. As with other entries in the series, both well-known classics and rarities were recorded, resulting in a wonderfully thorough presentation. The completed project received universal acclaim, and *But Not For Me* received the 1960 Grammy Award for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance. In perhaps the greatest testament to the brilliance of Ella Fitzgerald and the interpretations of the Gershwin Songbook created by she and Nelson Riddle, Ira Gershwin has been famously quoted as saying, "I never knew how good our songs were until I heard Ella Fitzgerald sing them."

Ella Fitzgerald Sings the George and Ira Gershwin Songbook was the high point in the series of songbook packages produced by Norman Granz for the Verve label. There had been four such projects beforehand: boxes of songs by Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hart, Duke Ellington, and Irving Berlin. Granz decided to make the Gershwin box the most ambitious of all of them: 5 LPs plus a 7" limited edition bonus disc that included Riddle arrangements of Gershwin instrumental compositions. This project had the enthusiastic cooperation and participation of lyricist Ira Gershwin who attended the recording sessions and re-wrote lyrics for the occasion. This was the first songbook session that Nelson Riddle participated in. Granz had wanted Riddle to arrange music for the previous songbooks, but he was unavailable at the time.

Notes to the Conductor:

This publication is based on the original Nelson Riddle pencil score. This arrangement was recorded by Ella as-is; there were no form or note changes from the original score.

Doug DuBoff and Rob DuBoff

- February 2015

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SCORE

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AND IRA GERSHWIN

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FREELY ♩ = 60

RIT.

Vocal

Violin I
mp
con sord.
tr

Violin II
mp
con sord.
tr

Violin III
mp
con sord.
div.
tr

Viola
mp
con sord.

Cello
mp
con sord.
pizz.
arco

Harp
E \flat F \sharp G \flat A \flat
D \sharp C \sharp B \flat

Guitar

Piano/Celeste
Piano

Bass
arco
pp

Drum Set

4 RUBATO

A TEMPO

Vox. Em - brace me, my sweet em - brace - a - ble you!

Vln. I, Vln. II, Vln. III, Vla., Vc. *p*, *div.*

Hp. *mp*, F#, C#, #F

Gtr. *pp*, Cm7, F7

Pno. *pp*, Cm7, F7

Bs. *p*, Cm7 pizz., F7

D. S. Brushes, *pp*

4 5 6 7

Vox. Em - brace me, you ir - re - place - a - ble you!

Vln. I div.

Vln. II div.

Vln. III div.

Vla.

Vc. unis. div.

Gtr. Cm7 Ebmi F13 F7(b9) Bbma7 Bb6 D7(b9/5)

Pno. Cm7 Ebmi F13 F7(b9) Bbma7 Bb6 D7(b9/5)

Bs. Cm7 Ebmi F13 F7(b9) Bbma7 Bb6 D7(b9/5)

D. S. (4) (6)

8

9

10

11