

Editorial Reviews

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It's a credit to James Darren that he can record an album that so clearly owes a great debt to [Frank Sinatra](#) yet still sounds fresh. The former early-'60s teen idol is best known these days as Vic Fontaine, a virtual Rat Pack-type crooner who appears on the holodeck of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, and these swinging standards were all performed on that show. (He thus follows in the footsteps of *Next Generation*'s Brent Spiner, who recorded a Sinatra-esque album in 1991 entitled *Ol' Yellow Eyes Is Back*.) Darren, whose voice is a closer match to [Tony Bennett](#)'s than to Sinatra's, is supported by an excellent orchestra, a cast of A-list arrangers including [Alan Broadbent](#), [Sammy Nestico](#), and [Marty Paich](#), and a top-to-bottom collection of great songs. *DS9* fans would do well to grab this right away, as would all fans of this timeless style of singing. --
David Horiuchi

Media Type: CD

Artist: DARREN,JAMES

Title: THIS ONE'S FROM THE HEART

Street Release Date: 08/24/1999

Domestic

Genre: OLDIES

Most Recent Customer Reviews

5.0 out of 5 stars

This is from the tops!, November 24, 2011

By **Wilbert N. Lee** (Wheaton, MD, US)

Amazon Verified Purchase

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

As a Fan of Star Trek Deep Space 9's character "Vic Fontaine" this is from the tops. A distant reminder of a time when there was class. DS 9 brought James Darren out of retirement and back on the stage to do what he does best, sing!

5.0 out of 5 stars

James Darren at his best!, September 19, 2011

By **Star Trek Fan**

Amazon Verified Purchase

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

For those who know of his early singing career, he made a wonderful switch to the Lounge Sound of the 60's Las Vegas era when he starred as Vic Fontaine in Star Trek's Deep Space 9 series. This CD is just like viewing the TV show when he had his episodes starting with "His Way" in the 6th season. He has been around this type of music for a long having been with the Sinatra family and it is a natural for him and his big band sound.

5.0 out of 5 stars

As good as it gets, June 6, 2011

By

Samuel Wai (Moorhead, Minnesota USA)

Amazon Verified Purchase

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

James Darren fulfills all that one looks for in a male vocalist doing the classic American popular songs. The big band is fantastic on this album. Darren is stylish and his vocals are first rate. He is a real singer. These are songs that you will love if you don't already know them. His renditions are as good as you are ever going to hear anywhere. He ranks with Sinatra, Bennett and Como. My view is that he is better than all of them.

5.0 out of 5 stars

I Left my heart in the Holodeck, May 22, 2010

By **C. Fleming** (Pensacola, FL USA)

Amazon Verified Purchase

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

While I love this kind of music - Rat Pack singers were the greatest - my primary interest in the album was its connection to Star Trek. Vic (James Darren) Fontaine, sang all of these great Big Band numbers in the Holodeck aboard Deep Space Nine. It's great to listen to and be able to remember it from the past as well as from the Future. Enjoy.

4.0 out of 5 stars

This One's Pretty Good, Too, March 15, 2010

By **Christopher M. Gorham** (Minneapolis, MN USA)

Amazon Verified Purchase

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

For those of you whose only recollection of James Darren is the role of Moondoggie from the "Gidget" movies or playing Officer Corrigan on "T.J.Hooker," allow me to enlighten you to his talents as a crooning tenor.

While he's of no relation to 50's star Bobby Darin, you wouldn't know it to listen to them in a side-by-side comparison. Both have smooth tones with a richness that satisfies, along with an infectious sense of fun that comes through in their music. It's no small wonder that Paramount

cast him in the role of Vic Fontaine, the "light bulb" and fictional Rat Pack irregular, on "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine." I could very easily see Mr. Darren opening for the late great Sinatra, or even sharing the stage in a duet. While some may compare Darren's singing to that of Tony Bennett, I would say that he surpasses Bennett in terms of purity of tone and musical sensitivity, coming closer in sound to either Bobby Darin or Dean Martin.

The tracks themselves are mostly glorious, although "It's Only A Paper Moon" comes across as slightly rushed and a bit thin. To my ear, this could have easily been fixed had the arranger just keyed it down by a half-octave, but then, I'm just a reviewer. That one song aside, this is a marvelously performed and produced album. High points include brisk, fun renditions of "You'd Better Love Me" and "Night And Day," along with more soulful touches in "Here's To The Losers" and "You're Nobody 'Til Somebody Loves You." Turned down low, the music makes for great atmosphere, while playing it louder tends to lead to spontaneous dancing. A must-bring to any wedding or anniversary party. If you don't love it, you don't love swing.

5.0 out of 5 stars

James Darren at his best, January 30, 2010

By **Danny E. Pinter "PreechrD"** (Collinsville, MS)

Amazon Verified Purchase

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

Being a lover of Big Band, James Darren's project is a hit. To be honest, I was introduced to many of these songs watching DVD's of Star Trek Deep Space Nine (I'm a closet Trekkie), and when I found out these songs were available on CD, I immediately ordered them. I've not been disappointed. The only thing I would have changed...the arrangement of "I'll Be Seeing You," on the show (which is the song that pushed me over the edge to order), and the arrangement on the CD are not the same. To that I said, "RATS," but I am pleased with the total project. Thanks, Vic Fontaine, for a great collection.

4.0 out of 5 stars

Simply Enjoyable, memorable, and Classy, October 26, 2009

By **E. N. Gamble** (Puyallup, WA USA)

Amazon Verified Purchase

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

As was stated by previous reviewers, I purchased this CD because of the character Vic Fontaine, played by James Darren, in the Star Trek series Deep Space Nine (DS9). As a big Fan of Star Trek, I enjoyed viewing the few episodes with Vic Fontaine. As a much older singer, James Darren still has the pipes and did a superb job on the show and on this CD. Look...The character was well written and the songs sung by James Darren in DS9 are timeless classics. You imagined the future with the show and reminisced on the current and the past with the songs. What a way to end the DS9 series by gently putting us back into the present with such timeless classics. Thanks James Darren. For everyone else, Go out and purchase Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Dean Martin, Tony Bennett, and of course James Darren. Plus many others.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Great Classics, May 15, 2008

By **Victor Hougau "frpvict"** (Seattle, WA USA)

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

I first heard these songs on Star Trek: DS9 and had to get the CD. What a great collection of these great songs. Classic, fun and upbeat music for any occasion.

5.0 out of 5 stars

I'm Feeling Ahead Of My Time!!!", March 7, 2008

By **VAN NEVEL** (INDIANA USA)

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

I AGREE SO MUCH WITH ALL WHO LOVE THIS CD. I,THOUGH, ALSO LOVE THE ACTOR. HE HAS BEEN MY FAVORITE ACTOR SINCE HIS FIRST GIDGET MOVIE IN 1959 AS MOONDOGGIE. THAT INFO ALSO MEANS I AM DATING MYSELF - BUT AS MY REVIEW TITLE PROCLAIMS -- I'VE KNOWN HOW TALENTED HE IS SINCE I WAS A GIRL OF 11. WHAT TOOK EVERYBODY ELSE SO LONG?

5.0 out of 5 stars

Deep space nine crooner, September 7, 2007

By **giaspa251** (spain)

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

James Darren is a fantastic singer and has a charisma that is enchanting. Arrangement is great and on balance he is a much more entertaining singer than Sinatra (in my opinion). It is a shame he is not more well known outside the US, 20 years younger and with the current interest in jazz singing and swing, he would have wiped the floor with Buble (who I also like). As you can tell I'm gushing and have already bought another of his albums.

4.0 out of 5 stars

Just you...your gal...and Vic! What a combo, Pallie!, July 26, 2007

By **Robert Badgley** (St Thomas,Ontario,Canada)

Amazon Verified Purchase

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

I just ran this CD from beginning to end. I can honestly say that this is one of the most refreshing CDs I've heard in quite a long time.

Mr. Darren, a teen idol close to 50 years ago (has it been that long?!),will surprise and even doubtless amaze some critics that haven't heard any of his recent work. All the songs in this CD are time honored standards that Mr. Darren deftly weaves in and out of in a relaxed but solid way that lets you know he's in total control and is doin' things his way. I find often that artists in the last while that have done "standards" material either have their arrangements get overly ambitious which end up obscuring the artists or when they need that extra bit of "umph" in the arrangements to hide their deficiencies in the vocal department, it isn't there.

This CD, and Mr. Darren, has no problem in either department. The arrangements are no-frills, they're right to the point and Mr. Darren's vocal style and abilities are more than up to the challenge, each and every time.

Everyone will have their favorites to be sure but for my money "All the Way" scores it big time. A glorious romantic and heart felt rendition and wonderfully backed by the studio orchestra.

Finally, I'm delighted to see that Mr. Darren has dedicated this CD to Deep Space Nine and all its' fans. It was, after all, DS9 that kick started his singing career again and as a result two CDs so far have been produced.

Mr. Darren was certainly a great addition to DS9 and I hope you will buy this CD and make it a great addition to your very own music collection. It deserves a special place in it.

Thanks Mr. Darren, I mean Vic...Or is that Pallie!?

5.0 out of 5 stars

CD-Vic Fontaine/DS9-James Darren, July 14, 2007

By **B. McKeith "Starved for Sci Fi"** (Michigan)

Amazon Verified Purchase

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

I LOVED IT! Have about worn it out. I considered Vic Fontaine's character important and a great addition to the DS9 series. Was so glad to get the music - I can remember almost every episode as James Darren sings. GREAT music and it is WAY before my time - but proves this music is timeless. Thanks DS9 for something new to me.

4.0 out of 5 stars

Forget Star Trek - An excellent crooner!, February 16, 2007

By **M. Sherwood** (Abbotsford, BC)

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

I loved the character of Vic Fontaine! I think it was brilliant to have a crooner assist the DS9 crew as they dealt with the Dominion War. Putting that aside, though, this CD reminded me of a delicious blend of Tony Bennett and Mel Torme! I love crooners and "The Best is Yet to Come" is my favourite song of all time. Darren does an excellent job with the song, infusing it with his smooth upbeat style. I am glad that James Darren is making a bit of a comeback through DS9. In some ways, this is a great lesson for ST fans: to make a better future, we do need to enjoy and learn from the past. These songs are fresh, new and hopeful. A great CD for these war-torn times.

5.0 out of 5 stars

one of the best cds ever, January 19, 2007

By **Shihaisha "firerescuebatt07"** (SoCal United States)

Amazon Verified Purchase

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

I loved this cd. This music makes me think. Reminds me of drinking a nice cocktail and watching a vegas act in a dark lounge holding hands with my wife. ahhh go vic! james darren sure can sing. He covers all the best songs.

5.0 out of 5 stars

Wonderful music!, November 10, 2006

By **Linda L. Keezer**

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

Very good music by james darren, (also known as Vic fontaine on star trek deep space nine). We can listen to it over and over and not get tired of it. Very good singing on his part, and the background music was very well performed!

5.0 out of 5 stars

Great disc pallie!, September 2, 2005

By **Angelo Phillips "penguin lover"** (Erie, PA)

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

Being a HUGE Star Trek fan, I couldn't wait to introduce my wife to Deep Space 9, which, in my opinion has been one of the forgotten Treks, and also one of the best. Anyway, I knew we were approaching the whole Vic Fontaine era at the end of the 6th season, so I couldn't wait for my wife to see James Darren create the character of Vic, especially since she's always been such a lover of 50's and 60's era lounge singers. Suffice to say, she loved the episode! This got me to

wondering if James Darren ever made a recording of the songs he sang on the series, which in turn led me to search Amazon for such an album. As you may have guessed, I found it and have been enjoying it ever since! We dance to it, we drive to it, we even make... well, you can guess this one! This is one great album! From the selection of songs to the orchestration to the smoothness of the singing, this album is first-rate. To borrow a phrase from Vic, you can't go wrong... Pallie!

5.0 out of 5 stars

This One "is" from the Heart, August 13, 2005

By **N. E. Garner** (Indianapolis, Indiana, USA)

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

I was so glad to see James Darren as a character on ST: Deep Space Nine. A heck-of-a-comeback barely describes how great he is; and this album even more. I was never sure if he had a compilation of his songs from DS9, I know I have had each of them stuck in my head at one time or another, and when I found this CD, I was elated. Especially when I received the CD and saw all of his mentions and dedication of ST: Deep Space Nine for helping him come back to the stage, both acting and singing, as he used to. This has to have been one of my best purchases for music ever.

5.0 out of 5 stars

OUTSTANDING, February 17, 2005

By **Rex "kilted911"** (burbs of Los Angeles, CA)

Amazon Verified Purchase

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

The title of my review says it all. There is nothing more that I can add.

5.0 out of 5 stars

As good as it gets, January 6, 2004

By **Q. "solrac1970"** (Seekonk, MA USA)

Amazon Verified Purchase

This review is from: This One's From the Heart (Audio CD)

This album is one of my favorites, and not only because I'm an old school Trekkie (yes, I've seen every movie and every episode of everything)...

I don't usually listen to this kind of music, or at least I don't buy much of it. If you look through my collection you'll find a lot of bands with names like Napalm Death, Slayer, Carcass, Zyklon, Dirty Rotten Imbeciles, Carnivore ... you get the picture. However, this album is just so damned good. The selection of tunes, the production value and musical ability of all the musicians is simply top notch. I find myself listening to this on my best sets of speakers, and even then the subwoofer is struggling at times. The horns will rattle the Infinity Kappa's in my truck occasionally, but it's still all nice and crisp ... something that cannot be said for many original "remastered" recordings. If this had been the old days, I would have worn out the cassette already (and probably 2 or 3).

It helps that my girlfriend loves this CD too, as well as most that hear it. Between her, my friends and ballroom dance class I've come close to losing this CD a few times which in my experience is the highest praise. Just buy it, you'll love it. When you get it, put your name on it, don't let it leave the house and watch it like a hawk. If you must take it with you places, make a backup copy