



James Darren, "This One's From The Heart"
(Concord) ★★★★★ Swing-pop

Gidget would have married Moondoggie a lot sooner had he sang these fabulous swanky tunes to her in the moonlight. A singer long before he headed to the beach alongside Sandra Dee (and later Deborah Wally) in those late '50's movies. Darren is smooth as silk as he croons out classics such as "Come Fly With Me", "I've Got you Under My Skin", and "That Old Black Magic". The jumpin' arrangements by Jimmy Bryant and Patrick Williams are right on target. Though he scored five top hits in the early '60's including "Goodbye Cruel World" and "Her Royal Majesty" this disc marks Darren's first singing venture in 15 years. He's in prime vocal form for an album that was borne of his "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" television character, Las Vegas headliner, Vic Fontaine.

With subtle nods to Ol' Blue Eyes, Tony Bennett and even Bobby Darin, Darren will surprise even the most skeptical listener with his performance here. "Satin Doll" is a luscious treat, while "The Way You Look Tonight" is positively elegant, thanks to that Oh-so-sexy trumpet solo by Rick Baptist. "This One's From the Heart" definitely will have you dancing cheek to cheek on some romantic evening.

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