

L.A.

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Page 34

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MORE CD REVIEWS

JOHN VANCE*It's All Right With Me*
(Erawan)

Light and comfortable, John Vance sings a dozen chestnuts from the Great American Songbook with accompaniment from pianist Jeff Colella, bassist Randy Landas and drummer Rod Harbour. His pleasant vocal delivery affords an accurate interpretation for each selection. While Kenny Rankin's "Haven't We Met" cannot qualify – just yet – for the Great Songbook title, it's one of those lovely tunes that fits the description nevertheless.

Vance turns each piece into a gentle caress. Convincing in his approach, the actor/singer has made audio samples from the album available at www.johnvance.com.

"The Nearness Of You" moves slowly with gentle persuasion. Vance reaches deep into his soul to find the right emotional feeling. An accurate singer with a limited range, he eschews forced vocal displays in lieu of heartfelt passion. Like the guy next door, Vance interprets each song honestly with sincere reason. He's not out to punch his ticket or to add another few lines to his performance resume. This singer is working for all the right reasons: just for the love of it.

"The Best Is Yet To Come" proves this point better than any of the others on his program. While we're used to feeling the shine of neon lights along with this Cy Coleman gem, Vance refrains from adding the usual glitz and glamour to its interpretation. Instead, he delivers the lyrics convincingly with subtleness of spirit. It's the same quality that he shares with "Easy Living." The latter arrangement is expected; it's the only logical way to present this lovely ballad. But Vance's other Great American Songbook interpretations come as a welcome surprise and bring his heartfelt delivery into the family.

—Jim Santella