

## New CDs at Local 47

John Vance is a member of SAG and AFTRA. His debut album features Local 47 members Jeff Colella, Musical Director and Pianist; Randy Landas, Bass; and Rod Harbour, Drums. Here he discusses his background and his music.

I've been singing as long as I can remember, and it's always been my dream to record an album.

After a decade of singing only on rare occasions, I stumbled across an open mic night at the Gardenia in Hollywood in early 2001. After a few Tuesday nights there, I was approached by the management and asked if I'd like a booking. I said "yes." My first club show, after probably a dozen years, was in May of that year. I contacted a jazz player I'd known for many years, Jeff Colella (Local 47), and we met to gather material for the show. My best friend,

Perry Hart, who is an award-winning musical director in Los Angeles, insisted I work with Jeff. He had played for Perry's group, String of Pearls, on many occasions during the years they were working. Knowing Jeff's history, and the fact that he has worked for Lou Rawls for years, frankly intimidated me. As it turns out, we formed a wonderful collaborative partnership, and Jeff ended up producing my record with me. Along with Jeff, I was fortunate to work with two wonderful musicians who I have also known for many years in association with Perry and String of Pearls. They are: Randy Landas (Local 47) on bass and Rod Harbour (Local 47) on drums. Long story short, after a couple of gigs at the Gardenia in 2001, we started talking about recording the music. That's how *It's All Right With Me* was born. We went into the studio to lay down all the primary tracks in June of 2002.

Some of the songs on the CD, "Two for the Road," "One Note Samba" and "The Best is Yet to Come," have been with me since my first club act at Bernie's in Westwood, CA in 1984. (Perry Hart was my Musical Director and Arranger in those days.) I guess there's a story behind my choice of each tune. I picked "I'll Take Romance" because of Eydie Gormé's mid-1950s version. "Isn't it Romantic?" was revived by Michael

Feinstein, and I loved it. The Antonio Carlos Jobim songs, "One Note Samba" and "Wave," I've loved since I first heard them as a kid in the 1960s.

"Easy Living," a song sung by Billie Holiday, was covered in more recent times by Diane Schurr, who I greatly admire. As a matter of fact, it was Nancy Wilson's version of "Wave" that first caught my attention. I've always been a fan of those women, as well as Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Carmen McRae, Frank Sinatra, and of course, Tony Bennett, Mel Tormé and Jack Jones (with whom I

worked on The Glenn Miller Band Reunion), and on and on. The Cole Porter classic, "It's All Right With Me," was given a Latin arrangement by Jeff Colella, which really makes it kick, and it is the most up of the up-tempos on the record. I love not only the song, as we did it, but the sentiment behind the title. I'm at a point in my life where I can say things are pretty good, and it really is all right with me.

Those of us who want to produce music these days, who aren't already signed to labels, are very fortunate. Digital recording and CD technology, a burgeoning independent music market, and the internet are contributing factors which make a project like mine viable in a way it wouldn't have been even 10 years ago. I was able to put together a collection of songs I love, and record them with musicians I hold in high regard. It has been a wonderful and amazing journey. I was also helped along the way by studio owner/engineer Scott Fraser. We spent countless hours in the studio editing and he was tireless, endlessly patient and a complete pro. Doug Schwartz, who mastered the project, was equally helpful and extremely proficient. The oft-used phrase, a labor of love, absolutely applies to *It's All Right With Me*. It's that, and so much more.

For more information, please visit [www.johnvance.com](http://www.johnvance.com).



**John Vance:**  
*It's All Right With Me*