

Cabaret singer **Maud Hixson** takes a big, bold step on her album "Don't Let a Good Thing Get Away," in the company of New York City heavyweights (Tex Arnold, Warren Vaché, Gene Bertocini, Steve LaSpina). It's the first album devoted solely to the works of Broadway songwriter Michael "Mickey" Leonard, best known for his score for "The Yearling." That show yielded two songs made into standards by a young and world-beating Barbra Streisand, "I'm All Smiles" and "Why Did I Choose You." In her understated, winning way, Hixson makes a strong case for the rest of Leonard's overlooked catalog, including four "premiere recordings." It's amazing that the droll "Old World Charm," which seems perfect for a sophisticated sex kitten like Bernadette Peters or the late Eartha Kitt, had never been recorded. Ditto the sly "Spider and the Fly" or the tender "Childhood's End."

--Tom Surowicz, Minneapolis StarTribune