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CD Review: Don't Let A Good Thing Get Away

By Joe Lang

Maud Hixson was a singer with a mission when I first met her a few years ago. She was familiarizing herself with the songs composed by Mickey Leonard, and determined to expose them to a wider audience. Leonard was best known for two selections from the Broadway show *The Yearling*, "I'm All Smiles" and "Why Did I Choose You?" that Leonard wrote with lyricist Herbert Martin. After listening to *Don't Let A Good Thing Get Away*, it becomes obvious that Leonard's gift for melody does indeed deserve the kind of exposure that this fine album will give it. "Not Exactly Paris", with lyrics by Russell George, has gained some currency among cabaret singers in recent years, deservedly so. Hixson's reading is worth the price of the album. Assisting Hixson on her mission is an All-Star group of Warren Vaché on cornet, Tex Arnold on piano, Steve LaSpina on bass and Gene Bertoncini on guitar. *Don't Let A Good Thing Get Away* is a perfect introduction of Leonard's songs to the uninitiated, and also serves to show that Hixson is one of the outstanding young singers to come along in recent years.