

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

*By Scott Yanow*

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Maud Hixson has a beautiful clear voice, swings lightly, and enunciates lyrics very well. A few years ago she applied for a grant to work with a living composer and perform a full set of the composer's works. This recording, which has her interpreting a dozen songs by Michael "Mickey" Leonard, is the result.

Leonard's best known songs were mostly written for the 1965 Broadway musical *The Yearling*, including "I'm All Smiles", "The Kind Of Man A Woman Needs", and "Why Did I Choose You?" (which were recorded by Barbra Streisand). Otherwise much of the material on this CD (which includes the premiere recording of four of the songs) is lesser-known but intelligent and original. The insightful lyrics (which are by a variety of lyricists) fit Maud Hixson's style well, with "Don't Let A Good Thing Get Away" being one of the highlights.

Throughout the set of ballads and medium-tempo material, the singer is joined by the sensitive and swinging pianist Tex Arnold, guitarist Gene Bertoncini, bassist Steve LaSpina and occasionally Warren Vaché who contributes some warm cornet solos.

"Don't Let A Good Thing Get Away" (available from [MaudHixson.com](http://MaudHixson.com)), which is comprised of fresh and rewarding material, is easily recommended to fans of first-class singing.