

Helen Merrill – The Artistry Of Helen Merrill (1965)

Written by bluesever

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*A1 Quiet Nights A2 Careless Love A3 Scarlet Ribbons A4 The House Of The Rising Sun
A5 I Left My Heart Behind A6 Cannelella B1 The River B2 Minha Rocca B3 Itsi No Komoriuta
B4 Forbidden Games B5 John Anderson, My Love* Vocals - Helen Merrill Bass – Keter
Betts, Teddy Kotick Clarinet – Jimmy Giuffre Drums – Dave Bailey, Osie Johnson Flute – Hal
McKusick Guitar – Charlie Byrd, Jimmy Raney Producer – Harry Ringler

This is a rare Helen Merrill folk-oriented album from 1965, with songs from all over the world. Perhaps it was her Croatian upbringing, but very few jazz singers sound as natural singing non-jazz material as Merrill does. She sounds just like herself (which she always does anyway), with no particular adjustment to a straighter idiom, as if she had to shed herself of jazz sophistication in order to become more "innocent." Highlights include the quasi-folk bossa nova "Quiet Nights" and "Itsi No Komoriuta." The great Charlie Byrd is on board, to provide the requisite acoustic accompaniment, as is Jimmy Giuffre on clarinet. --- Richard Mortifoglio, Rovi

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