

Erroll Garner - The Original Misty (1954)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Misty* [play](#) 2. *Rosalie* 3. *I've Got the World on a String* 4. *7-11 Jump* 5. *Don't Worry 'Bout Me* 6. *You Are My Sunshine* 7. *Part Time Blues* 8. *All of a Sudden* 9. *In a Mellow Tone* 10. *There's a Small Hotel* 11. *I Wanna Be a Rug Cutter* 12. *Exactly Like You* 13. *Oh, Lady Be Good* [play](#) Personnel: Erroll Garner (piano); Wyatt Ruther (bass); Eugene Heard (drums).

There are only so many songs that rank in the first chapter of the American songbook alongside Hoagy Carmichael's "Stardust," and a handful of beloved Irving Berlin and George Gershwin tunes. Erroll Garner's "Misty," however, is one of them. One of the most recognized and interpreted standards in the jazz repertoire, "Misty" is Erroll Garner's signature composition, and THE ORIGINAL MISTY CD marks the first digital appearance of the tune's initial recording. As legend has it, Garner composed the song in his head as he was flying to the recording session (July 27, 1954); then, once he arrived, he sat down and recorded it in one take.

Given the thousands of interpretations of "Misty" that followed and will continue to follow, hearing this original version is a historical and musical thrill. The song is also a showcase for Garner's lush lyricism and fluid phrasing. The rest of the album is equally engaging, with Garner taking on several standards including Duke Ellington's "In a Mellow Tone" and George Gershwin's "Oh, Lady Be Good." From the same session as "Misty," these songs were also recorded in one take, and feature Garner's famous blend of ragtime exuberance, advanced technical prowess, and pop-song accessibility. ---cduniverse.com

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Recorded in 1954 in Chicago, and originally released under the title of "Erroll Garner Contrasts", this disc features a number of one-take recordings. Two tracks from the same session (but different original LP releases) have been added to this CD release: "Exactly Like You" and "Oh, Lady Be Good."

Although perhaps it was simply coincidence, the Chicago location of the recording date shows through in the bluesy edge that many of the tracks have. Most of the performances are a lot more bouncy and upbeat than other Garner recordings I've listened to, yet they retain a relaxed feeling.

According to the liner notes this is the very first version of "Misty" ever recorded. Apparently Garner composed it in his head while flying to the session. The version heard here is take 1. ---hyperbolium, amazon.com

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