Bob Berg - Another Standard (1996)

01. You and the Night and the Music   02. Summer Wind *play*   *03. Michelle   04. Just in Time   05. My Man's Gone Now   06. All the Way   07. No Trouble   08. It Was a Very Good Year   09. I Could Write a Book*
play

 Personnel: Bob Berg (soprano & tenor saxophones);   Randy Brecker (trumpet, flugelhorn);   David Kikoski (piano);   Mike Stern (guitar);   Ed Howard (bass);   Gary Novak (drums).

"In order for a tune to become a standard," says Karen Bennett in her liner notes, "it has to have enough appeal and substance to keep both musician and listener engaged on many levels for many years." Late Miles alumnus Bob Berg's Another Standard asserts that status for a lineup of familiar but not front-line tunes: "You and the Night and the Music," "Summer Wind," the Beatles' almost unrecognizable "Michelle," "Just in Time," "My Man's Gone Now" from Porgy and Bess, "All the Way," "It Was a Very Good Year," "I Could Write a Book," and his own "No Trouble."

Most of this is a "standard" quartet date, featuring Berg on tenor and soprano, David Kikoski on piano, Ed Howard on bass, and Gary Novak on drums. Randy Brecker chimes in with trumpet and flugelhorn on the Gershwin tune and "I Could Write a Book," and Berg enlists Mike Stern's guitar on his own track.

Bob Berg is clearly a virtuoso instrumentalist. When Miles Davis hired him, he knew what he was doing (maybe all the way down to the Coltrane inflections.) Berg's command is total and flawless. His mates, Kikoski in particular, are fine, although the rhythm section sounds a little dulled, what with thirty years of rock and disco between us and Coltrane's quartet with Elvin Jones. One may hope that in his next outing he leaves aside his homage to Coltrane and lets
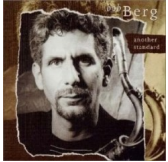
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about. ---Robert Spencer, allaboutjazz.com

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