The Dinning Sisters – Songs By The Dinning Sisters (1952)



A1 Sentimental Gentleman From Georgia A2 Where Or When A3 You're A Character, Dear A4 Once In A While B1 The Way You Look Tonight B2 Aunt Hagar's Blues B3 Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone B4 Brazil

Originally released as a Capitol 10", the Japanese import of the Dinning Sisters' eponymous CD is a sinfully short collection of eight songs clocking in at just over 20 minutes. Led by the Jack Fascinato orchestra, the songs (including the spectacular "Where or When," "Brazil," and "The Way You Look Tonight") are all available on the exceptional Jasmine CD Almost Sweet and Gentle, making this all too brief for anyone but collectors and completists. ---Zac Johnson, AllMusic Review

A bright and harmonious vocal group in the tradition of the Boswell Sisters and the Andrews Sisters, the Dinning Sisters worked in the Midwest in the '40s and early '50s. The Dinnings were a musical family of nine children, all of whom started singing harmony in church, and then spent their Sunday afternoons singing for fun. Three of the sisters, twins Jean and Ginger and sister Lou, started to win amateur singing contests before the age of ten, and later began to perform with older brother Ace's orchestra. With little experience but a lot of ambition, the young ladies left their Oklahoma hometown and traveled to Chicago, where they auditioned for NBC radio. They were hired and remained for seven years, and ultimately became the highest paid radio act in the Windy City.

The group underwent a few lineup changes over the years (Lou was replaced in 1946 by Jayne

Bundesen, who was in turn replaced by Tootsie Dinning in 1952), but their albums for Capitol sold consistently well, including their debut release Songs by the Dinning Sisters which held the top spot on the charts for 18 weeks. Marriages and children eventually demanded the act's attentions, but the family remained involved in music, from Jean Dinning writing the song "Teen Angel" to the sisters' nephew Dean playing bass for alterna-rockers Toad the Wet Sprocket. In 1988, Collectors Choice released an outstanding collection of the Dinning Sisters greatest hits, which is well worth checking out. ---Zac Johnson, AllMusic Review

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