

Lee Wiley & Ellis Larkins - Duologue (1954/1988)

Written by bluesever

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A1 –Lee Wiley *My Heart Stood Still* 2:23 A2 –Lee Wiley *Looking At You* 2:43 A3 –Lee Wiley *You Took Advantage Of Me* 3:21 A4 –Lee Wiley *By Myself* 2:30 A5 –Lee Wiley *My Romance* 2:35 A6 –Lee Wiley *Give It Back To The Indians* 3:29 B1 –Ellis Larkins *Mountain Greenery* 3:05 B2 –Ellis Larkins *It Never Enter My Mind* 2:56 B3 –Ellis Larkins *Perfume & Rain* 3:16 B4 –Ellis Larkins *My Funny Valentines* 3:02 B5 –Ellis Larkins *Then I'll Be Tired Of You* 2:41 B6 –Ellis Larkins *Glad To Be Unhappy* 2:18 Drums – Jo Jones (tracks: A1 to A6) Photography By [Ellis Larkins Photograph] – Hans Harzheim Piano – Ellis Larkins (tracks: B1 to B6), Jimmy Jones (tracks: A1 to A6) Trumpet – Ruby Braff (tracks: A1 to A6) Vocals – Lee Wiley (tracks: A1 to A6) Lee Wiley tracks recorded in New York City, 7th July 1954 Ellis Larkins tracks recorded in New York City, c. 1954

Although only 38 at the time of this recording and still in her musical prime, singer Lee Wiley was already thought of as a has-been, and was finding it increasingly difficult to locate work. Her sophisticated, gentle, yet sincere swing style was out of favor by the mid-'50s, but she still had something to say. This CD reissue features her haunting voice showcased on eight numbers with a quartet that includes trumpeter Ruby Braff, pianist Jimmy Jones, bassist Bill Pemberton and drummer Jo Jones; the best are "My Heart Stood Still," "My Funny Valentine" and especially memorable versions of "It Never Entered My Mind" and "Glad to Be Unhappy." Although pianist Ellis Larkins, who is heard on four unrelated unaccompanied solos, gets co-billing on the CD, he and Wiley never actually meet. ---Scott Yanow, AllMusic Review

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