Frank Sinatra – Ring-A-Ding Ding! (1961)

01. Ring-A-Ding-Ding (02:45) play *02. Let's Fall In Love (02:12) 03. Be Careful, It's My Heart (02:04) 04. A Foggy Day (02:18) 05. A Fine Romance (02:13*
play
06. In The Still Of The Night (03:26) 07. The Coffee Song (02:52) 08. When I Take My Sugar To Tea (02:07) 09. Let's Face The Music And Dance (03:00) 10. You'd Be So Easy To Love (02:24) 11. You And The Night And The Music (02:37) 12. I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm (02:53)
Frank Sinatra (vocals); Don Fagerquist, John Anderson (trumpet); Frank Rosolino (trombone); Bud Shank (flute); Bill Miller (piano); Emil Richards (vibraphone).

This 1961 album was Sinatra's first release for his own label, Reprise. Not coincidentally, there's an obvious air of exultation running throughout the entire record. Sinatra is in impeccable voice as he swaggers through Johnny Mandel's arrangements with confidence to spare, delivering unforgettable versions of "A Foggy Day," "When I Take My Sugar to Tea," "Let's Face the Music and Dance" and "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm." This is prime "Rat Pack"-era Sinatra, as rakish as the tilt of his hat on the album's cover. Sadly, too few of his subsequent Reprise releases managed to measure up to the standard set by this album. --Dan Epstein

Unlike many of Sinatra's Reprise and latter-day Capitol releases, there's no real thematic link connecting the songs on this album. RING-A-DING-DING is more a case of Sinatra stepping into the studio with arranger Johnny Mandel (former trombonist for both Jimmy Dorsey and Count Basie) and a batch of great songs and doing what he does better than anyone else in the world. While the jaunty title tune provided the media with one of many famous Sinatra catch phrases, it's the cool assurance he displays on "A Foggy Day," "You'd Be So Easy To Love"

and others that makes this album an example of the singer in his prime. ---cduniverse.com

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