

Helen Merrill - There Goes My Heart (2015)

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*01. When I Fall in Love 02. You Don't Know Me 03. The Nearness of You 04. Lilac Wine
05. Comes Love 06. I'm Just a Lucky So-And-So 07. When the Sun Comes Out 08. All of You
09. Don't Explain 10. You Win Again 11. A New Town Is a Blue Town 12. Where Flamingos
Fly 13. Summertime 14. Heart Full of Love 15. Anyplace I Hang My Head Is Home 16. Cold,
Cold Heart 17. End of a Love Affair 18. Am I Blue 19. Mountain High, Valley Low 20. Born to
Be Blue 21. I'm so Lonesome I Could Cry 22. Dream of You 23. The Things We Did Last
Summer*

A fine singer with a warm, expressive voice, Helen Merrill's infrequent recordings tend to be quite special with plenty of surprises and chance-taking. She started singing in public in 1944 and was with the Reggie Childs Orchestra during 1946-1947. Merrill, who was married for a period to clarinetist Aaron Sachs, had opportunities to sit in with some of the top modernists of the time, including Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, and Bud Powell. She was with Earl Hines in 1952 and started recording regularly for EmArcy in 1954. Her collaboration with Clifford Brown was her first classic. She made several notable EmArcy albums during 1954-1958 (including one in 1956 that helped bring Gil Evans out of retirement); all have been reissued in a large box. After recording for Atco and Metrojazz in 1959, she moved to Italy for the next four years, touring often in Europe and Japan. Back in the U.S., Merrill teamed with pianist/arranger Dick Katz for a pair of notable and unpredictable Milestone dates (1967-1968) and then moved to Japan where she was quite popular. Helen Merrill returned to the United States in the mid-'70s and has since recorded for Inner City, Owl, EmArcy (including a reunion date with Gil Evans) Antilles, and Verve, which released her 2000 album Jelena Ana Milcetic a.k.a. Helen Merrill.
---Scott Yanow, Rovi

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