

Carmen McRae - When You're Away (Japan Edition) (1993)

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01. *When You're Away* 02. *The More I See You* 03. *I Only Have Eyes For You* 04. *Willingly (Melodie Perdue)* 05. *If I Could Be With You (One Hour Tonight)* 06. *I'll Be Seeing You* 07. *I Concentrate On You* 08. *Ain't Misbehavin'* 09. *Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye* 10. *When Your Lover Has Gone* 11. *I'm Glad There Is You* 12. *Two Faces In The Dark* Carmen McRae - Piano, Vocals Frank Hunter - conductor (4, 12) Luther Henderson, Jr. - conductor (tracks: 1 to 3, 5 to 11)

Eight years younger than her idol, Billie Holiday, Carmen McRae was a contemporary of Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan. Ella and Sarah were already well established by the time Carmen came onto the scene, but it wasn't long before Carmen was considered their artistic equal, although she never achieved their wide popularity. She never had a huge hit nor did she ever receive a Grammy. But, on the other hand, she never made a bad record nor compromised her high standards.

Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan inspired awe with their vocal prowess. Ella – with her perfect pitch and unerring sense of time – could reproduce any instrumental jazz riff, and Sarah – with her multi-octave range and ultra-flexible voice – could change octave and color on a single note. Carmen, however, could bring a tear to the eye or a lump to the throat, with her reading of a lyric. That was her great talent. She combined the ability to project the emotional connotations of a song with a musical intelligence that was derived in part from her knowledge of the piano. --- carmenmrae.com

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