

RODGERS & LEONHART

Renowned jazz bassist Jay Leonhart commemorates the Richard Rodgers Centennial with a 13-song CD entitled *Rodgers & Leonhart*

New York, NY — With a street date of November 4, 2002, Sons of Sound enthusiastically presents its second recording by the renowned jazz bassist, vocalist, and songwriter Jay Leonhart, entitled *Rodgers & Leonhart* (SSPCD015). This thirteen-song disc is conceived as a tribute to Richard Rodgers and, with the support of the Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization, is released to coincide with the celebration of the composer's 100th Anniversary. All of the songs on this disc were written with either Lorenz Hart or Oscar Hammerstein II.

With new interpretations and original arrangements, *Rodgers & Leonhart* boasts an ever-changing cast of supporting instrumentalists and guest singers pooled both from the Sons of Sound label roster and the musically-gifted Leonhart family. Featured artists include Ted Rosenthal (pn), Bob Sneider (gt) and Dave Mancini (dr) in the rhythm section; Michael Leonhart (trpt), Jim Pugh (trbn), Andy Parsons (sx) and the American Saxophone Quartet in the wind section; and guest vocalists Carolyn Leonhart, Donna Leonhart, and Jodi Stevens.

Says Jay Leonhart: "I recently compiled a long list of my favorite songs so I would never be at a loss for something to play with my trio. It was then that I realized just how just many of my genuinely favorite songs were written by Richard Rodgers... Many of these Richard Rodgers songs have become deep jazz standards. Other of his songs, like "Edelweiss," "The Sound of Music," and "This Nearly Was Mine," are rarely recorded in jazz. But they got some special consideration and treatment and have been included here... At first I was concerned that the title *Rodgers & Leonhart* might incur the wrath of classic Rodgers and Hart fans and cause them to look askance at my presumptuousness. But considering that the whole Leonhart family does appear here, and with a deep bow of appreciation to the extraordinary Oscar Hammerstein and the brilliant Larry Hart, and with great respect for Julie Andrews: Here's *Rodgers & Leonhart*."

Trumpeter/arranger Michael Leonhart (Mr. Leonhart's son) has won over twenty international composition and arranging awards, and was the youngest Grammy winner in history by 1992. Michael lends his prodigious arranging skills to "The Sound Of Music," featuring the American Saxophone Quartet, led by Albert Regni, principal saxophonist of the New York Philharmonic. The unique arrangement is made possible by The Commission Project, a non-profit music education organization (www.tcp-music.org).



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Pianist/arranger Ted Rosenthal is an acknowledged expert in the music of Thelonious Monk, which led the producers to request a special arrangement of “You Took Advantage Of Me.” Drummer Dave Mancini (Doc Serverinson, Maynard Ferguson, The Boston Pops) has his own record as a leader, *Salt Peanuts* on Sons of Sound, as does guitarist Bob Sneider (Chuck Mangione, Fred Wesley), entitled *Out of the Darkness*. Recording artist and composer Andy Parsons, a recent semi-finalist for the Thelonious Monk International Jazz competition, is also featured on Sons of Sound (*A Whole Nother Story* and the forthcoming *Flip!* with John Patitucci and Ben Monder). Trombonist Jim Pugh is a veteran of the Woody Herman and Chick Corea bands and has been named four times as the “Most Valuable Player” on his instrument by National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

Vocalist Carolyn Leonhart (Mr. Leonhart’s daughter) is best known for her work with Steely Dan on their Grammy Winning CD *Two Against Nature*. Vocalist Jodi Stevens is recognized for her work on Broadway (*Jekyll & Hyde* and the forthcoming *Urban Cowboy*). Her debut album, *Girl Talk*, is also on Sons of Sound and features Mr. Leonhart. Vocalist (and wife of Mr. Leonhart) Donna Leonhart’s first album *Bein’ Green* was recently named “Record of the Month” on France’s PIP network.

Rodgers & Leonhart is Mr. Leonhart’s second outing on the Sons of Sound label, after *Galaxies and Planets*, released in 2001 (SSPCD008)

Artist information available at: www.sonsofsound.com and www.jayleohart.com. Sons of Sound recordings are distributed exclusively through Big Daddy Music (www.bigdaddymusic.com).

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