

MIKE SMITH ORCHESTRA & SINGERS

Double CD Album : 'THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR'

by PETE CLACK at AMAZON

Every so often you hear a CD that stands out from the rest, it's fresh, exciting, and makes you feel good all at the same time. Mike Smith's Orchestra and Singers, have produced one in their new release entitled ' THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR'

James Last one of the world's great and biggest selling bandleaders said of them, they are "A band with a great sound". Well actually, that's a bit of an understatement, this band are simply superb. I'm at heart not a big band fan, but if it was all as good as this one I very soon would be. This is an exceptionally fine album, that has something for every taste whether your into ABBA, or Classical Music, Country, Pop or Big Band sounds, it's all here.

The Orchestra to give it the right title has the full range of instruments, giving Mike Smith the base to develop the quality of music filling this album, and he has chosen so well. Opening with an uplifting medley titled 'Hooked On Classics' we know the parties off to a great start, and never for a minute does this totally enjoyable release fail to bring complete pleasure – it's that good.

No review could give full justice to something that simply must be heard, "SURELY AMONG THE TOP RELEASES OF THE YEAR"

The idea of recording this live in concert was inspired, because that's where those involved really come into their own. From Classical, Big Band, Show Tunes, Country and very well liked and known popular songs make this work so well, and the programme is skilfully set to flow just beautifully throughout. This release stands out so strongly – and deserves huge success.

Not only are the musicians excellent throughout, but the four singers are from the top drawer, great voices all of them with the whole range of music styles covered here. In fact I'd confidently say they are better than most we hear these days, and could easily be stars in their own right but with Mike's Orchestra they really do stand out.

The ABBA Medley is quite exceptional, and as one a little tired of the 'Mamma Mia' over playing of their music – this medley makes them sound so alive and fresh again . The vocals are stunning by the two young ladies performing them, Catherine Sykes & Jennifer Robb.

Mike has chosen his band so well, and though the music is played in the style of James Last, this is very much the music genius of Mike Smith at work here, aided by a team of top class musicians and singers.

It has been an absolute pleasure not only to listen to, but review an album of such pure enjoyment. I can't praise this album enough, it makes you feel good, it lifts the spirits, it get's you humming along or more likely singing along as well. They deserve to be filling large Theatres and Arenas, because they really are that good.

I listen to many albums over the year, but this is going to be a standout, because it's just so well performed by all involved. They all deserve our thanks for producing such good quality music as this.

I love this album, and recommend everyone gets a copy, and this release gets heard – because it's very high quality – but also so high in that FEEL GOOD FACTOR. Congratulations to everyone involved in producing such a wonderful album.

Titled “THAT’S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR” this release surely will bring many more friends on board and totally deserved as well.

5 STARS ALL THE WAY – (6 If it was possible)

Pete Clack (Amazon)

CD's Available from : www.amazon.co.uk

(Also available from.)

Orchestra Friend's :-

Dennis Overton Tel:- 01225 754337

Derrick Nundy Tel:- 01205 290252 (Work) 01205 820080 (Home)