



Craig Brandau - Try to Remember

I received this CD a few days ago. This is the second CD I have had a chance to review from Craig Brandau.

"Try to Remember" is a collection of timeless classic tunes. Here is the line-up:

1. Try to Remember
2. A Man and A Woman
3. Till There Was You
4. Watch what Happens
5. Never My Love
6. Wave
7. When You Wish Upon A Star
8. Honeysuckle Rose
9. Daydream
10. Mona Lisa

"Try to Remember", written by (Tom) Jones and Schmidt. The song was a hit for the "Sandpipers" and that is the rendition I remember. The song was also recorded by Harry Bellafonte and Andy Williams. Craig's instrumental rendition keeps with the original tempo.

"A Man and A Woman" was a major motion picture in 1966 and this was the title song from the soundtrack. A romantic melody. I prefer this to the "trumpets" in most renditions I have heard. It is well suited for the ukulele. Cali Rose is featured in this track.

"Till There Was You" was written by Meredith Wilson. The song

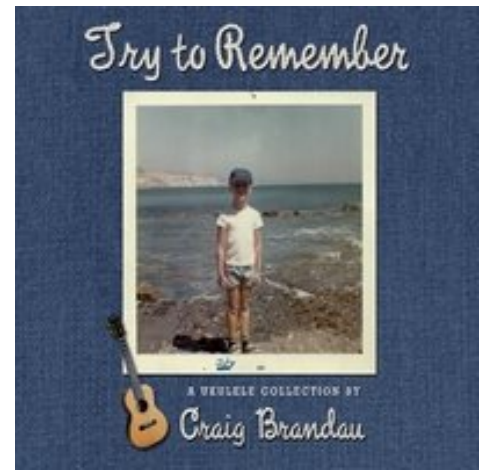
was featured in "The Music Man" and was a big hit. This is a very nice rendition, cleanly played.

"Watch What Happens" was a beautiful sound-track tune written by Jaques Louis Demy, Michel Legrand, and Norman Gimbel. Lots of great songs were written for movies. Sinatra recorded this tune in 1969 and added another hit to his collection. Cali Rose sings on this track. Very nice.

"Never My Love" 1974 tune, and Addressi Brothers original. I always loved this tune... they don't write songs like this anymore. Nicely played. I love it.

"Wave" I have heard this played as a Bossa Nova and also more classical Jazz. Either way, I like it. Craig gives it a different flavor that leans more toward classic jazz. I like the accents, in particular. I'd love to hear Craig play this live with a jazz trio.

"When You Wish Upon A Star", famed ukulele tune... Think of Cliff Edwards, a.k.a. Ukulele Ike when you hear this song. I like this rendition. The tune was originally written by Washington and Harline. It was used in Pinocchio, the Disney animated classic.



"Honeysuckle Rose" has been played by everyone from Django Reinhardt to Willy Nelson. I remember Louis Armstrong's rendition. Craig makes it his own. Nicely done. The tune was actually written by Fats Waller, with lyrics by Andy Razaf.

"Daydream" is a Cali Rose original song. She sings and Craig plays accompaniment on this number. I like the beat. This has the mood of classic jazz. Here is one talented couple showing what can happen when two creative people play together. I love it.

"Mona Lisa" wraps up the CD. When I hear this tune, I can't help but think of the rendition played by Tommy Emmanuel. This is, however, the best rendition I recall on ukulele. It's a fitting end to an excellent CD.

It will be interesting to see whether Craig and Cali Rose put more music together or continue their own creative projects. I look forward to their blend of talents and hope to hear more in the future.

Well done, Craig and Cali Rose.