

CCM-1039

JOHNNY MERCER

SONGSMITH
FROM
SAVANNAH



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Songsmith From Savannah

Johnny Mercer

Collector's Choice
MUSIC
CATALOG

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1. **On The Atchison, Topeka And the Santa Fe** (v) Mercer (1:50)
(Warren-Mercer)
2. **G.I. Jive** (v) Johnny Mercer (2:14)
(Mercer)
3. **Lazy Bones** (v) Johnny Mercer (1:53)
(Carmichael-Mercer)
4. **Accentuate The Positive (duet)** (v) Mercer and Helen O'Connell (2:44)
(Arlen-Mercer)
5. **Moon River** (v) Helen O'Connell (2:30)
(Mancini-Mercer)
6. **Satin Doll** (v) Johnny Mercer (2:14)
(Ellington-Mercer)
7. **Jamboree Jones (duet)** (v) Mercer and Bobby Troup (2:39)
(Mercer)
8. **Sweetheart Tree** (v) Johnny Mercer (2:23)
(Mancini-Mercer)
9. **Somethings Gotta Give** (v) Johnny Mercer (2:27)
(Mercer)
10. **Two Of A Kind (duet)** (v) Mercer and Helen O'Connell (2:20)
(Mercer)
11. **Autumn Leaves** (v) Helen O'Connell (2:23)
(Kosma-Mercer)
12. **Jeepers Creepers** (v) Johnny Mercer (2:37)
(Mercer)



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Johnny Mercer loved to sing. With his charming southern accent he was a delightful rhythm singer as this compact disc will clearly attest.

From the beginning track it is apparent that Johnny is in good company and having fun. A superb jazz combo backs the singer throughout. And to add variety to the program Mercer is joined by two of his special friends: the lovely songstress *Helen O'Connell* and singer-songwriter *Bobby Troup*.

With the jazz combo simulating a train coming down the track, Johnny quickly jumps on board for a swinging singing ride **On The Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe**. A slow trombone intro changes the tempo and Mercer reprises **G.I. Jive** his tongue-in-cheek contribution to the war cause. A lazy mood is next created by the interplay between Johnny's voice and a bluesey guitar on his first major collaboration with *Hoagy Carmichael*, the easy going **Lazy Bones**. The first duet on the disc brings together Mercer with the pert Helen O'Connell to brighten the session with their up tempo rendition of **Accentuate The Positive**. Helen then solos on a rather brisk interpretation of the wonderful Mercer-Mancini collaboration, **Moon River**. A walking bass helps Johnny vocally court Duke Ellington's **Satin Doll** on a leisurely stroll. The second duet brings together the two tunesmiths, Troup and Mercer in a breezy and sporty rendition of the athletic epic **Jamboree Jones**. **The Sweetheart Tree** returns the reins on this musical journey to Johnny for a wonderful interpretation of one of his lesser known ballads. Mercer rhythmically continues in the drivers seat with the up-tempo, **Somethings Gotta Give** from the 1955 Fred Astaire film *Daddy Long Legs*. The final duet again perfectly pairs Mercer with O'Connell in a medium bounce treatment of **Two Of A Kind**. The haunting melody of **Autumn Leaves** allows Helen alone to be wonderfully reflective with one of Mercer's most lovely lyrics. The disc ends upbeat, allowing Mercer and members of the combo to stretch out on **Jeepers Creepers** his 1938 novelty tune from the film, *Going Places*.

Wayne Knight

POPULAR GENTLEMAN OF SONG



The "Savannah Songsmith" in the transcription recording studio

JOHNNY MERCER



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COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

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