

# ***NEW YORK POST***

BEN E. KING

"Heart & Soul"

3 1/2 STARS

There will be no objections anytime, anywhere if Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Ben E. King stands by me and sings the love songs from his latest record, "Heart & Soul." This album of American standards shows King off as one of the sterling interpreters of the love ballad. The music of the 13 tracks is jazz-oriented, played at an easy, relaxed, seductive pace that subtly leaves lots of space in the arrangements for King's elegant strong, baritone to massage the tension of life out. King finds a very smooth groove in the title track, "Since I Fell for You" and "I Only Have Eyes for You," all of which are performed in slick piano arrangements accented by trumpet great Randy Brecker. What makes this album sing is how King steers clear of the pitfalls of typical love-song collections by keeping the frills to a minimum and letting the lyrics do the wooing.

- Dan Aquilante