



Vic Damone "On The Street Where You Live"

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{Vic Damone} at the {-Royal Festival Hall} is a surprising joy - a classy latter-day concert by the smooth-as-velvet voice of Damone backed by {The Northern Dance Orchestra}, a wonderful full orchestra that adds more than a touch of class to the proceedings. Opening with {"The Song Is You"} this 1985 concert, listed in the {BBC Archives} as part of their recordings, has the fifty-seven year old crooner (at the time) in fine form. {"When I Dream"} follows and the production and performance are so perfect one might think they are listening to a studio version on radio instead of a live concert. Vic's fresh, youthful look from the album covers has been replaced by elder statesmen authority, but you'd never know it when that superior voice takes control. After the terrific (neo disco) title track, {"On The Street Where You Live"}, he allows for some audience participation dipping back 21 years prior to memories from 1956 - and offering an {Andy Williams} album to a fan. Mixing contemporary material - a nice reading of the 1977 {Captain & Tenille Hit} hit from the pens of {Carole Bayer Sager} and {Melissa Manchester}, {"Come In From The Rain"}, with old standards works to Damone's advantage, of course. The singer shows why he deserves more attention - the kind that {Tony Bennett} and others have garnered in the new millennium. {"New York, New York"} has none of the angst that {Liza Minnelli} and {Frank Sinatra} tore into it, here {Vic Damone} simply masters and owns the timeless melody with incredible ease. By 2007 this is the only visible DVD from {Vic Damone} and the lack of more concert material readily available by this important artist is distressing. 13 songs played over fifty-two minutes and an instrumental exit of {"Over The Rainbow"} make this short and sweet - the viewer needing some extras and bonus tracks and their absence the one downer here. There's individual tracking for each song and an advertisement for other {Cherry Red Film} releases but that's it. So enjoy the superb concert.

Joe Viglione