

MIDWEST RECORD

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ESSENTIAL JAZZ CLASSICS

BENNY CARTER-EARL HINES QUARTET/Swingin' the 20s: This is a wild package for a lot of reasons. In the course of this twofer, you get all the sides Carter and Hines made together. Both Hines and Carter were around long enough that they could have handles on songs from the 20s without any problem, but Carter was so timeless, he and Hines sound like they are from different eras. Their trip through the 20s manages not to sound dated despite being over 50 years old featuring songs over 90 years old. The companion album, "Livin' With the Blues" by under recorded folk singer Barbara Dane, captures her lusty, hard living side that kept her bubbling under in the 50s. She might be a folk singer, but she swings right along with the two masters as they set the pace. Killer stuff that is loaded with verve still today.

- CHRIS SPECTOR, Editor and Publisher