

January 1995

THE CARPENTERS

For **INTERPRETATIONS**, Richard Carpenter has selected 16 of his favorite Carpenters recordings written by outside songwriters. Of course, Richard is an accomplished writer himself, having co-written, along with lyricist John Bettis, such famous hits as "*Top Of The World*," "*Goodbye to Love*," "*Yesterday Once More*," and "*Only Yesterday*." But his and Karen's chief concern was finding the best material, regardless of whether or not it was their own composition.

INTERPRETATIONS is a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Carpenters' first success: "*Close to You*." In addition to "*Close to You*," **INTERPRETATIONS** includes many of the Carpenters' most popular songs, including "*Rainy Days And Mondays*," "*Superstar*," "*We've Only Just Begun*" and "*Bless The Beasts And Children*." But also included are three tracks never before released: "*Without A Song*," "*From This Moment On*" and "*Tryin' To Get The Feeling Again*."

"*Without A Song*" is a showcase for Richard and Karen's vocal skills. The lush harmonies in the a capella version are as intricate and complex as those of the finest jazz vocal groups, including the Manhattan Transfer and Singers Unlimited. "*When I Fall In Love*" (made famous the first time by Nat "King" Cole) was recorded by the Carpenters in 1978 and ultimately used for their fifth ABC television special, "*Music, Music, Music*," broadcast in 1980. Karen's silky voice was perfect for this 1950s standard, and this version feels at home in any decade since then.

The real gem on this new collection is "*Tryin' To Get The Feeling Again*," a track which had been presumed lost for sixteen years. Recorded in 1975, the tape was never catalogued, but in 1991 the partially completed track was rediscovered. Richard orchestrated the song and recorded strings for it in the spring of 1994 for its inclusion on **INTERPRETATIONS**. The vocal lead heard here was just a one take run-through by Karen - revealing how good she really was in just "one take." The Carpenters' interpretation is majestic and moving, with an understated intensity that draws the listener back to the song over and over again. (Barry Manilow had a hit with his version in 1976.)

The sixteen songs on **INTERPRETATIONS** show the remarkable breadth and depth of the Carpenters' repertoire and emotional range. From the 1929 standard "*Without A Song*" through the Leon Russell standard "*This Masquerade*" and to the futuristic opus "*Calling Occupants Of Interplanetary Craft*," the Carpenters' music remains timeless.

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