

CONTINENTAL · AMERICAN



Allen Deten

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The late introspective singer-songwriter, *Peter* Allen, had a unique talent for spinning a tune and getting his audiences to react to his often-flamboyant stage shows. That contrast in style may have slightly overshadowed his true talent. But a pop hit that went to the top of the charts, which he co-wrote, opened new doors for the Australian-born performer with his evergrowing cult of fans.

Of course, that song is "I Honestly Love You," which appears here on this original catalogue album, recorded with an all-star cast of players at the beginning of his illustrious career. It's given a very touching and sensitive reading by the co-author, revealing its true sentiment. The album's opener, "Just A Gigolo," has been around for decades, but this maestro of the cabaret scene gave it new meaning when he sang it. Along those lines, "Just Ask Me I've Been There" is another reflective ballad branded with Allen's distinctive style.

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It may be trite to say it, but despite its age, "Everything Old Is New Again" was the singer's

appropriate commentary on what seemed to be the case with fashion, music and current events—then and even now. This international, bi-coastal celebrity, who was once married to Liza Minnelli, vamps his way through another thought provoking observation of his former lifestyle with the title track, "Continental American."

Sadly, he's lost to us in a physical form, but his music has lived on to be enjoyed by many—on all continents.

Everything Old Is New Again Just Ask Me I've Been There This Side Shows Leaving Town Just A Gigolo (Schöener Gigolo) The Natural Thing To Do Just A Gigolo [reprise]

I Honestly Love You **Continental American Pretty Pretty**

CD **\$3.75**

