

## *THE GOOD LIFE*

Monty Alexander plays the songs of Tony Bennett



Having previously enjoyed the Monty Alexander, Ray Brown, Russell Malone album which featured such great recordings as *Django* and *Blues for Junior*, I was really looking forward to hearing this CD.

Unfortunately, the album starts off with a couple of lacklustre tracks which got me off to a bad start! I feel that some of Tony Bennett's songs – although penned by good songwriters – do not transfer well to jazz piano.

*That Old Devil Moon* and *The Good Life* come across as a bit wishy-washy. In fact, in comparison to Alexander's previous work, they could be described as 'not the full monty'!

There are some reasonable tracks on the CD. *The Way You Look Tonight* and *Because of You* are good, but *Put on a Happy Face* is a bit threadbare and *I Wanna Be Around* could be prescribed for insomnia!

Alexander's support musicians, Lorin Cohen (bass) and George Fludas (drums) acquit themselves well but as a trio their final result is an album that is only 'pleasant'.

Despite playing the CD a number of times, it didn't grow on me and I had to replay the Monty Alexander compilation album *Triple Scoop* to get the taste out of my mouth!

Maybe Tony Bennett plays this CD whilst writing his memoirs, but for me it is fairly mediocre.

.... Phil Mosgrove