

Key Elements

Jazz for the Record

A C A P P E L L A



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This CD has been a labour of love for each member of Key Elements. Two years in the making, *Jazz for the Record* is the result of much blood, sweat and sacrifice. The project took a long time to finish because we never seem to have enough money to book the studios! Any sugar daddies out there?



Key Elements are (from left to right):

Susanna Pua

MEZZO SOPRANO

Chua Kim Beng

TENOR

Benedict Goh

TENOR

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But it's not all bad – we've had plenty of rollicking good times: Cracking up over bad puns during our twice-a-week practice sessions, chowing down on scrumptious dinners and suppers, and, of course, wetting our whistles with great bottles of wine. We hope all that comes shining through in this CD.



Chua Hui Lian ALTO

Vaughan Tan BASS

Jason Ong BARITONE

1

Do Re Mi . 4:00

R Rodgers, O Hammerstein II

"There is something irresistibly charming about Big Band jazz that gets your fingers snapping and your feet tapping. It was Harry Connick Jr's refreshing Big Band rendition of an otherwise boring Rodgers & Hammerstein tune that inspired this arrangement. Listen out for influences from Take 6 and The Real Group in the intro and body of the arrangement."

—

BENEDICT

5

Better Than Anything . 3:42

D Wheat, W Loughborough

"What could be better than love? Nothing, according to this song. However, many things are close seconds for us: chai tow kuay, home-made tau huay, the buffet at Swissotel Merchant Court's Ellenborough Market Café, winning the 4D, and concerts at the Esplanade!"

—

JASON

2

Stompin' at the Savoy . 2:30

B Goodman, C Webb, E Sampson, A Razaf

"January 2007... what a way to start the year: Key Elements was invited to open for The Real Group – an absolutely fantastic a cappella group from Sweden – at their gig in The Esplanade. Not only did we perform this song in the prestigious concert hall, we also sang it during The Real Group's master class a couple of nights later. They offered some really cool tips. Now, whenever we sing this song, I am going to remember that surreal moment with The Real Group!"

—

HUI LIAN

6

Route 66 . 4:04

B Troup

"I've always been a fan of Tierney Sutton, and her superb rendition of 'Route 66' prompted me to arrange it for Key Elements. This was one of our earlier arrangements to feature timing changes, which we had lots of fun with! The choreography and props also make this a fun song to sing live!"

—

JASON

3

Stay Away From Bill . 4:05

E Arkin, B Manilow, B Sussman

"What is it about allos... when we get a song that is finally in our comfortable range, we just have to do it all steamy and sassy! And it's so true for this particular song. I especially lurve the cat fight at the end - done in true alto fashion!"

—

HUI LIAN

7

Accentuate the Positive . 3:37

H Arlen, J Mercer

"Being a Christian, I naturally felt comfortable with this song because it talks about looking at the positive side of things, something that Biblical characters like Jonah and Noah did. I hope this song will help inject some positivity and hope into your life!"

—

SUSANNA

4

We Are KE . 2:00

J Ong

"Jason wrote this cute ditty so that we can introduce ourselves musically when we sing in front of a live audience - that's what the sequential layering of the different vocal parts is for."

—

KIM BENG

8

'Swonderful . 2:49

G Gershwin, I Gershwin

"Written by the celebrated songwriting siblings, George and Ira Gershwin, this song first appeared in the Broadway musical Funny Face in 1927. Many people, including the members of Key Elements, aren't really sure where the apostrophe of the song title should go. Some don't even know that there's an apostrophe in the first place. Well, jazz - I mean - just for the record, it should be placed before the 'S', as it's supposed to be short for 'it's', which is a contraction of 'it is', is it not?"

—

VAUGHAN

9

Historia de un Amor . 3:47

C E Almaran

“Many thanks to my friend Luis for helping me understand and pronounce the lyrics. I think most people here are familiar with the Chinese cha-cha version, but the original Spanish lyrics are hugely romantic and melancholic.”

—

KIM BENG

10

Lean Baby . 3:01

B May, R Alfred

“Carol Kidd’s rendition of this song first caught my attention some years ago, and it came to mind when I was looking to arrange a song with humorous lyrics. Susanna does a great job mooning about her man, who’s no wider than a broomstick.”

—

JASON

13

Opening [from A Singapore Girl Story] . 1:50

J Ong

“I was introduced to local short-film director Jeremy Sing in June 2007 when he was looking for an a cappella group to sing over the opening sequence of his latest masterpiece, A Singapore Girl Story. We hit it off pretty well, and discovered that we had common friends – small world, huh? Maybe Jeremy should make a short film about that! I sat down to write something “driving, vocalese-style, totally a cappella” as Jeremy requested. The result is something atypical of the Key Elements style; nevertheless, we had fun working on it.”

—

JASON

11

Fly Me to the Moon . 3:12

B Howard

"Apparently the most frequently requested song at weddings, 'Fly Me to the Moon' has proven to be a timeless classic. This is one of my first bossa nova arrangements – hope you like it."

—

BENEDICT

12

Bernie's Tune . 2:00

B Miller, M Stoller, J Lieber

"I've always loved the faster jazz numbers, so I was glad that words were given to this well-known up-tempo tune by Bernie Miller. Singing lead for this catchy song was loads of fun, and I hope you will also try crooning it! As the song suggests, just do it straight from the heart!"

—

SUSANNA

Produced by Jason Ong.

Recorded at Loop System Sound Studios
(Engineer: Desmond You) and
Sonic Studio (Engineer: Allen Eu).

Mixed and Mastered by Desmond You and Jason Ong.

Vocal arrangement for all tracks
except 'Do Re Mi' and 'Fly Me to the Moon' by Jason Ong.
The two exceptions are arranged by Benedict Goh.



"I would like to thank my family - especially my husband, Steven - and my friends, all of whom have been very supportive of my dabbling in music and a cappella singing. I couldn't have done it without this network of compulsory fans! Last but certainly not least, I give thanks to God for the special gift of music He has given me. I hope I have not hidden this treasure from the world."

—
HUI LIAN



"Firstly, I'd like to thank God - my pillar of strength - who has graciously given me a voice good enough to sing a cappella! A huge "thank you" also goes out to my family, who has always supported me in my passion for singing - love you lots mum, dad, zeeli and drewly! To my friends, colleagues and students - some of whom don't even like jazz: Your support has been a great encouragement and I thank the Lord for each of you! Lastly, thanks to KE for giving me the opportunity to sing with you! I enjoy every minute of it!"

—
SUSANNA



"First, I'd like to thank God for the gift of music, and for the opportunity to share it with the people around me, especially to my mum and the rest of my family. Thanks to Darren, Dom, Kevin, Audrey, Ken, Robert, Desmond and Cindy for your friendship and unwavering support. To all my other friends - a big "thank you"! And most of all, thanks to the rest of the Elements for bringing my arrangements to life. Can't wait to work on the next CD!"

—
JASON



"I want to thank Almighty God for the gift of music, without which life would be quite joyless and soulless. Without this creative outlet, I think I'd be unbearably cranky. Thanks also to my fabulous family and friends – your love and support mean the world to me. Special mention to the other Key Elements – thanks for the laughs, the food, the wine, and the chance to make beautiful music."

—
KIM BENG



"First, I'd like to thank my loving wife, Annita, for patiently waiting up for me and taking good care of me all these years! Special thanks to my business partner and good friend, Genie, for being understanding during those times when I have to take off from work to sing with KE. And to all family members, friends and students for your support... you won't regret buying this CD."

—
VAUGHAN



"I thank God for giving me a pleasant voice and a pair of good ears to be able to make music and enjoy the pleasures of music-making. I would also like to thank my family, especially my father and mother, for their selfless love and sacrifice in giving me an education and the things that I don't really deserve. And thanks to my wife, Zhilin, for being patient and generous, allowing KE to practice at home and enduring our cacophony. My gratitude also goes out to all my friends and students who have always been there for Key Elements. Last but certainly not least, thanks to Jason and Susanna for chauffeuring me home from practices and performances."

—
BENEDICT

- 1 **Do Re Mi . 4:00**
Richard Rodgers / Oscar Hammerstein II
OP: Williamson Music International /
EMI Music Publishing Ltd
SP: EMI Music Publishing Singapore Pte Ltd
- 2 **Stompin' at the Savoy . 2:30**
**Benny Goodman / Chick Webb / Edgar Sampson /
Andy Razaf**
OP: Memory Lane Music Ltd / EMI Catalogue Partnership
SP: EMI Music Publishing Singapore Pte Ltd
- 5 **Better than Anything . 3:42**
David Wheat / William Loughborough
OP: Sanga Music Inc / BMI
SP: Universal Music Publishing MGB Singapore Pte Ltd
- 6 **Route 66 . 4:04**
Bobby Troup
OP: Edwin H Morris Inc
SP: Warner Chappell Music Singapore Pte Ltd
- 9 **Historia de un Amor . 3:47**
Carlos Eleta Almaran
OP: Editorial Mexica De Musica
SP: Peer International Corp
Besame Mucho
Consuelo Velazquez / Francis Blanche
OP: Promotora Hispano Americana D
SP: Societe D'Editions Music International;
administered by Peer International Corp
- 10 **Lean Baby . 3:01**
Billy May / Roy Alfred
OP: Copyright Controlled
- 13 **Opening [from A Singapore Girl Story] . 1:50**
Jason Ong
OP: Jasongs Music Services



3 Stay Away From Bill . 4:05

Eddie Arkin / Barry Manilow / Beuce Sussman

OP: Somisongs / Obbligato Music / Appoggiatura Music /
BMI

4 We are KE . 2:00

Jason Ong

OP: Jasongs Music Services

7 Accentuate the Positive . 3:37

Harold Arten / Johnny Mercer

OP: Warner Chappell Music International Ltd
SP: Warner Chappell Music Singapore Pte Ltd

8 'Swonderful . 2:49

George Gershwin / Ira Gershwin

OP: New World Music Co Ltd
SP: Warner Chappell Music Singapore Pte Ltd

11 Fly Me to the Moon . 3:12

Bart Howard

OP: Hampshire House Music Publishing Corp
SP: EMI Music Publishing Singapore

12 Bernie's Tune . 2:00

Bernie Miller / Mike Stoller / Jerry Lieber

OP: Atlantic Music Corp
SP: Universal Music Publishing MGB Singapore Pte Ltd



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