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Susan Watson & Norton Wright
Piano — **Ed Martel**
Percussion — **Chango Bush**

Recorded at
Grandma's Warehouse Recording Studios
Echo Park, Los Angeles, California
June 2007

Special thanks to **Ted Sprague**, director and
choreographer of my one-woman show, "A Journey
Through Life — The Songs Of Tom Jones
& Harvey Schmidt". The selection of songs
in this CD comes from that show.

Drawing of Susan Watson and other sketches
by **Harvey Schmidt**

Cover Photograph — **Martha Swope**
"Fantasticks" photographs by **Henry Grossman**
"Celebration" photographs by **Robert Alan Gold**

Photograph of Susan Watson in red
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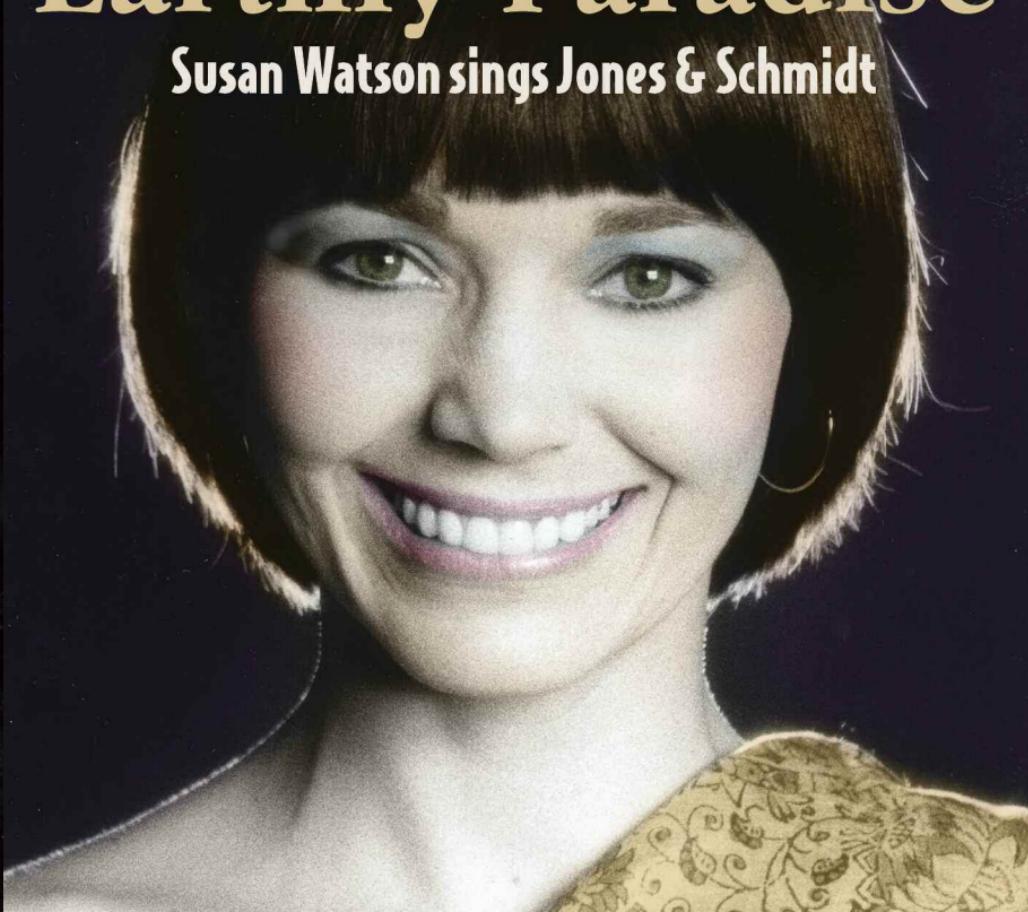
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Earthly Paradise

Susan Watson sings Jones & Schmidt



Dear Tom, Dear Harvey,

This CD is a musical love letter to you both. I just feel after so many years it's time to tell you how much I treasure your songs, their truth, their beauty, the way they illuminate the life experiences we all share from youth to getting older and all the checkpoints in between. The lyrics, wise and touching remind that this life should be savored and celebrated — everyday! And the music is as exciting and varied as life itself. I just feel so alive when I'm singing Jones & Schmidt.

You wonder how these things begin...

For me, it began in the basement of St. Bartholomew's Church in NYC when first I sang for you. I was so thrilled to be working with you two Texans so down to earth and akin to my own small town Oklahoma beginnings. And Tom, you were so witty, so smart and such a gentleman, and Harvey a whiz at the piano and movie-star handsome. We were working on a one-act version of THE FANTASTICKS, and in 1964 we got together again on a TV version of the show for The Hallmark Hall of Fame. Our paths joined once more in 1965 in your Italian villa as you were creating what was to become another of your Broadway hits, I DO, I DO. You both wanted to test out the holding of the lyric "love" in the song, "My Cup Runneth Over". Could it be held for eight bars? With Harvey at the piano, I tried it out and succeeded — breathlessly! We rendezvoused again on Broadway in 1969 in a breakthrough show for me, CELEBRATION. My ingénue image took a risqué turn as you got me into both a fig leaf and a whip. My husband loved it!

So, with you both it's been great songs and great times.

Selecting the songs on this CD was a delicious experience as there was a treasury from which to choose. Here are some of my reasons —

(1) "Earthly Paradise", from the stage play COLETTE, is what this CD is all about ... The melody is pensive and lovely and the lyrics beautifully explore a wondrous truth. Musical poetry this! It has become my family's national anthem! ... (2) In the rehearsals of 110 IN THE SHADE, there were so many great songs that there was no room for one of the most touching, "Sweet River". I've combined it into a medley with another song from 110, "Simple Little Things", the pairing poignantly telling the story of spinster Lizzie's dreams ... (3) "I Do, I Do" from your show of the same name is indeed an abundance of riches. I sing a medley of the three songs you created as possibilities for the title song. (The first one was the final choice!) ... (4) In our 1968 TV version of THE FANTASTICKS, Bert Lahr and Stanley Holloway sang and danced their way through "Never Say No" from the perspective of the two fathers. I do it here — from a mother's perspective! (5) Again from I DO, I DO, "My Cup Runneth Over" brings back memories of Mary Martin and Robert Preston wowing Broadway with the show ... (6) My earliest days with you both in New York City are recalled in "Autumn At The Automat" which I've borrowed from your TV special, NEW YORK SCRAPBOOK ... (7) Again remembering The Hallmark Hall Of Fame production of THE FANTASTICKS on NBC-TV, you paired

me with John Davidson as "the boy" and together we got goosebumps singing your legendary "Soon It's Gonna Rain" ... (8) From your 1969 Broadway show, CELEBRATION, singing the show's "It's You Who Makes Me Young" makes me feel I'm 19 again — or at least 39 again! (9) "They Were You" is another Fantastick experience, and I always sing it as if to you both ... (10) Keith Charles burned the oxygen out of the Ambassador Theater every night singing the title song in CELEBRATION. I love trying it here. Such drama!

... (11) "The Middle of The Road" from THE BONE ROOM, staged at your Portfolio Studio in New York City is so special, and when I sing it now, I still hear Ray Stewart's homespun rendition ...

(12) What wicked fun to sing "Decorate The Human Face" from COLETTE / COLLAGE. It's such a giddy salute to ladies "in their prime"! ... (13) "I'm Glad To See You Got What You Want" is the jazz number in this CD, and Ed Martel just amazes at the keyboard with a grooving piano and an improvised cadenza that I just love! ... (14) Again from COLETTE, / COLLAGE "The Room Is Filled With You" brings tears to my eyes with memories of loved ones departed ... (15) And for a finale, a medley of "Growing Older" and "Joy" to celebrate that we all are gloriously wise and wonderful!

I hope you enjoy this CD as much as I did in making it.

With big hugs to you both.

Love,

Suzie





- 1 Earthly Paradise (2:50) – *From The Play "Colette"/1970*
- 2 Sweet River/Simple Little Things Medley (4:50)
– *From "110 In The Shade"/1963*
- 3 I Do, I Do Medley (5:40) – *From "I Do, I Do"/1966*
- 4 Never Say No (2:15) – *From "The Fantasticks"/1960*
- 5 My Cup Runneth Over (2:03) – *From "I Do, I Do"/1966*
- 6 Autumn At The Automat (2:31)
– *From "New York Scrapbook"/1961*
- 7 Soon It's Gonna Rain (3:46)
– *From "The Fantasticks"/1960*
- 8 It's You Who Makes Me Young (2:25)
– *From "Celebration"/1969*
- 9 They Were You (2:25) – *From "The Fantasticks"/1960*
- 10 Celebration (3:16) – *From "Celebration"/1969*
- 11 The Middle Of The Road (2:37)
– *From "The Bone Room"/1975*
- 12 Decorate The Human Face (2:53)
– *From "Colette/Collage"/1982*
- 13 I'm Glad To See You Got What You Want (3:54)
– *From "Celebration"/1969*
- 14 The Room Is Filled With You (3:15)
– *From "Colette/Collage"/1982*
- 15 Growing Older / Joy Medley (3:26)
– *From "Colette"/Collage"/1982*

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SUSAN