

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
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GERSHWIN

This delightfully fresh recording of three Gershwin standards has been out there for a while, but it deserves enthusiastic attention. Pianist Jon Nakamatsu and the Rochester Philharmonic capture what so many big-throat orchestral performances of the Concerto in F and “Rhapsody in Blue” miss — the limber playfulness of jazz, the smoke-and-booze atmosphere of a big band under the lights, the music’s insouciant rhythmic pulse and its jaunty hair turns from heartbreak to what-the-hell humor. All that’s offered in the first five minutes of the Concerto, and it only gets better later. Nakamatsu and the orchestra make “Rhapsody” a playground, lingering in the sunlight over some alluring phrase, then charging off to make mischief somewhere else. Conductor Jeff Tyzik leads a combustible reading of the “Cuban Overture” to top things off.

— Steven Winn



GEORGE GERSHWIN
JON NAKAMATSU,
PIANO
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\$22.98