

Shirley Horn — *You Won't Forget Me*

The title of this album by jazz singer and pianist Shirley Horn is not boastful or hopeful. It's a simple fact, for *You Won't Forget Me* is truly great. The music has the relaxed, confident style of an artist at her creative peak. With the backing of her marvelous rhythm section and special appearances by artists like Wynton Marsalis, Horn delivers fourteen songs with measured brilliance. On the very first track — "The Music That Makes Me Dance" — Horn takes a dramatic pause that is daring in its length and utterly winning. From then on, she never falters. Not during a captivating rendition of "Come Back To Me." Not during a version of "It Had To Be You" that is slowed down until its lyrics have the inevitability of fate. Not ever. Horn

uses the limitations of her still supple voice to explore the emotional core at the heart of all these standards. And she has produced a classic.

Michael Giltz

Frank Morgan — *A Lovesome Thing*



It was probably inevitable that Frank Morgan's new album would be a let-down after *Mood Indigo*. And it is. His last release was a luminous, beautiful collection of tunes widely acclaimed as a classic. While *A Lovesome Thing* covers much the same territory, it's not nearly as convincing in its romanticism. Two songs featuring singer Abbey Lincoln are without interest. And others, such as the perfunctory opener "When You Wish Upon A Star," seem included just to soothe listeners only familiar with the gentle tones that dominated Morgan's comeback. Wayne Shorter's "Footprints" is given a nice, tough rendition and Thelonious Monk's "Pannonica" is simply gorgeous. But they're not enough to keep this from sounding too familiar, too safe.

Michael Giltz