

Michael Tracy – Harry Pickens

CONVERSATIONS

Sea Breeze 3088

Where or When / Sometime Ago / The Wayfarer / Ugly Beauty / Invitation Note / Beatrice / Alfonsina y el Mar / Something Songful / Conservation With Bill / If You Never Come To Me / If I Could Only Hold You When You Cry / So Wistfully Sad / I Love Paris

Tracy, saxes; Pickens, piano. No dates listed. Louisville, KY.

From three we travel down to two, in this case a duet of reed instrument and piano by Michael Tracy and Harry Pickens. Involved in music education at the University of Louisville School of Music in the city in Kentucky of the same name, Tracy has a couple of releases out but this is the first in the duo context. Pickens is heavily involved in the education scene also and leads his own trio around the area. Longtime listeners may remember his work on several Blue Note releases (now out of print) by the collective combo. His writing is represented here by "If I Could Only Hold You When You Cry," just one of many examples of excellent ballad playing heard herein. Most of the selections are described in detail in Marty Kasdan's comprehensive liner annotation. As good a set of duo interactions as one will find anywhere.

By Larry Hollis

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