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A Year's Worth of CDs - Notes for Holidaytime Shopping

Part 3: Solo Vocals, Discs Dedicated to Composers, Compilations, and Special Releases

ATW News

12/8/2006

With this third installment of ATW's overview of CD releases in 2006, notes on solo vocal discs, compilations and special issues.

VOCALS

Kevin Spirtas – Night and Days – Kritzerland - this recording of a performance at the El Portal Center in North Hollywood displays Spirtas as a singer with a powerful voice and obvious charisma. Structured as an autobiographical journey, the show has a terrific array of tunes from the American Songbook and the world of pop ("Jailhouse Rock"). Between songs, he delivers his patter so genuinely that, in addition to contextualizing the songs, it feels as if he's really opening up to the listener. After "I Can Do That" from *A Chorus Line*, for instance, he jokes about the difficulty of doing the dance that accompanies the song that he first performed at 18. Equally humorous is his revision to "One Day More" from "Les Mis." The new lyrics hear delightfully encapsulates his frustration with multiple auditions for that show in addition to life as on the soap opera "The Days of Our Lives." This track (along with the "Mega-Musical Medley" that includes songs from "Phantom", "Sunset" and "Saigon") displays Spirtas' powerfully rich voice. When he moves into quieter numbers, Spirtas becomes almost irresistible (particularly "I've Never Been in Love Before" from *Guys and Dolls*).

– Andy Propst

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