

A close-up portrait of Lisa Remick, a woman with short, wavy blonde hair and blue eyes, wearing a dark blue top and pearl earrings. She is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera against a black background.

ev'rything i love

**LISA REMICK**

WITH MIKE RENZI



*Lisa at Stable Sound Studio, Portsmouth, RI.*

## SPECIAL THANKS

Finalizing this recording was arduous due to Mike Renzi's absence from the process. Everyone involved felt a deep void. Yet, we had to complete what was so gracefully and masterfully begun under his direction.

Thanks go to my love and best friend Ron Scarpone for his devotion to this project (i.e., the progressive realization of a worthy idea); to Steve Rizzo, my soul mate and shrink, not only for his expert advice and guidance, but for the tears and laughs while producing and engineering the final mix; to Paul and Cathy Del Nero for their friendship, inspiration, and hospitality; to Barbara Peters for just being amazing and caring about

Mike; and, thank you to the beautiful Brenna for taking care of Steve.

A special thank you to all the remarkable musicians Mike recruited for this recording: Dave Zinno, Vinny Pagano, Gary Johnson, and Jay Azzolina. I am eternally grateful for your contributions. Also, a special thanks to Yvonne Monnett, for the doubling the chords for the Shearing sound on A Beautiful Friendship.

To The Club at Admirals Cove, its residents, Board of Governors, staff and management: thank you for always making me feel like family.



*On February 9, 2019, Lisa Remick appeared with her heroes Rex Reed, Sandy Stewart, Daryl Sherman and Mike Renzi in "Mike Renzi and Friends" at The Beach Café in New York City.*

To Dick Robinson and the entire Legends Radio family: thank you for loving and appreciating Mike and playing our recordings.

To my steady musicians and good friends in Florida, Bob Taylor and David Einhorn: Thank you for always being "game" for new material and making it sound like we rehearsed it!

To the late Joe Scott, jazz pianist, arranger, educator, mentor (wonderful friend) and his audiences at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, thank you for including me in many of your composer tributes during the past several years.

To Norm Kubrin, the late pianist/vocalist who gave me my start, and his wonderful family: the music never ends.

Thank you to Mike's fellow Rhode Islander, Joselle Crocker, for bringing Mike Renzi to hear me sing that fateful night four years ago.

Last, but not least, thank you to Mike Renzi for giving me the opportunity to be among the very privileged group of artists he has accompanied.

*Lisa*



## MIKE RENZI

piano, musical director and arranger

By the time Providence born pianist Mike Renzi was 13, he had already obtained his union card and begun his professional career. Word spread rapidly about his extraordinary skill as an improviser, and he soon found himself leading the house band at legendary Rhode Island jazz clubs The Kings & Queens and Allary while earning degrees from the Boston Conservatory and Berklee. When he moved to New York in 1976, his experiences backing jazz greats back in Rhode Island, such as Ben Webster, Bobby Brookmeyer, Art Farmer, Chris Connor, Blossom Dearie, and Mark Murphy served

him well. He started out with Mel Torme and was quickly recognized as a superlatively gifted and intuitive vocal accompanist and arranger which launched a stellar career accompanying and acting as music director for the finest singers of the 20th Century, including Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee, Lena Horne, Eartha Kitt, Cleo Laine, Carol Sloane, Maureen McGovern, Jack Jones, and Tony Bennett (and some recent recordings with Bennett and Lady Gaga). All along the way, Mike pursued a parallel career working in television and movies and racked up an astounding 17 Emmy nominations and 7 wins

for Music Direction and Composition. Due to his busy schedule, Mike has released only a handful of recordings as a soloist or leader, but his legacy is secured by his appearances on hundreds of internationally released albums and two Grammy nominations. Most recently his recordings and appearances with Rhode Island native and top cabaret artist Nicolas King have delighted audiences, underscoring his genius for musical direction at its highest level.

Mike Renzi passed away on September 28, approximately 6 weeks after we recorded the tracks for this album. We cannot express the depth of our sorrow at the loss of such a treasured friend and extraordinary musician. Steve Rizzo, his dear friend and the producer and sound engineer on this recording, has done a remarkable job bringing Mike's vision to reality and finalizing the mix for this recording. In fact, you will hear Mike's voice at the top of the recording as a special nod to the man whose genius reverberates in his numerous recordings and in our collective memory.



*The Mike Renzi Trio served as the house band at Jack Welch's Kings and Queens club in Pawtucket. They are seen here in 1964 (left to right): Bob Petteruti on bass, Mike Renzi at the piano and Artie Cabral behind the drums.*

## THE SONGS

When I completed my last CD with Mike Renzi (I'll Be Easy to Find), we had already begun to think about the next one. A pattern of songs about fresh love, deep infatuation, and the magical feeling of falling in love began to congregate on my "wish list." Ultimately, these are those we chose:

### A Beautiful Friendship

A well known jazz standard and the title song of the 1987 Mike Renzi Quartet album featuring Art Pelosi, Jay Leonhart and Grady Tate. Mike has always had an affection for this tune and he wanted it to have a George Shearing feel.

### I'm In Love Again

Co-written by Peggy Lee, Cy Coleman and Bill Schluger, was a wonderful vehicle to celebrate two important individuals in Mike's career, Cy Coleman and Peggy Lee. The first time I heard the song, it gave me goosebumps and knew I had to sing it.

### Ev'rything I Love

This Cole Porter tune is not well known to most of us, but Mike loved it. It may have been because of the virtuosity of Bill Evans and other jazz greats who played it. Mike was also a lyric aficionado; he loved the line "my haven in heaven above." He played the song for me several ways, but I was drawn to the bossa nova feel.

### Sure Thing/It's Love

Mike had recommended "Sure Thing" to me a few years ago; so who was I to pass it by? It wasn't until we were reviewing my final list of song titles for this recording that he came up with the idea of combining it with "It's Love"...kismet, indeed.

### Impossible

This Steve Allen tune was very personal to Mike. This was the favorite song of a very special woman in his life. That is all he told me. I tried to sing it with appropriate reverence.

### I Like the Likes of You

Who can resist this E.Y. "Yip" Harburg lyric paired so perfectly with an engaging Vernon Duke melody? We had fun with this one!

### My Mood Is You

Mike loved this unusual tune written by Carl Sigman. Lena Horne had recorded it a few times, once with Mike. I always enjoyed the Jack Jones version. Here, it's just Mike and I and the Fender Rhodes sound.

### This Happy Madness (Estrada Branca)

When I first mentioned this song to Mike, he said "I love that song; did you know that my good friend Gene Lees wrote the English lyrics?" The feel that Sinatra and Antonio Carlos Jobim gave it on their wonderful album is superlative. But, my wonderful musicians on this recording created something special!

### Nice N' Easy

This song was a last-minute addition to the recording; we wanted to spiced things up. A scintillating Alan and Marilyn Bergman lyric and a saucy, swinging tune by Lew Spence fit the bill.

### The Way He Makes Me Feel

Once again, the Bergmans come through with an extraordinary lyric that expresses the power of an overwhelming magnetic attraction. Written for the film Yentl, the emotive musical dynamics created by Michel Legrand are made for Mike's sweeping orchestral accompaniment.

### You'll See (a lethal love song!)

The subtitle of this Carroll Coates song captures the composer's sense of humor. Carroll wrote both the lyrics and music to this brilliant tune. Many of us have had to convince a potential partner that he/she is missing out by playing it cool; and Carroll tells the story perfectly. Artists Carol Sloane, Rebecca Paris and Diane Schuur have all recorded this. I did not need any further endorsement!

### Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye

As we were finishing our selections for the recording, I sang this song with Mike accompanying me at his favorite Newport restaurant, Sardella's. Mike loved the way I phrased it. And so, it became the last song on the recording, bringing it to a bittersweet conclusion. Oh, how Mike Renzi brought us "an air of Spring" when he was near!

### Dave Zinno

bass



### Vinny Pagano

drums and  
percussion (tracks  
1,2,3,5,8,11)



### Gary Johnson

drums (tracks 4,6,9)



### Jay Azzolina

guitar (tracks 3,8)



### Yvonne Monnet

(digital vibraphone,  
track 1)

