



CD Produced by
Jay Kerr and Neva Small

Engineered and Mixed by
Chip M. Fabrizi
at PPI Recording, New York, NY

Neva Small: Not Quite an Ingenue
Directed by Pamela Hall

Musical Direction and Piano: Don Rebic

Bass: Dick Sarpola

Graphic Design
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Caricature of Neva Small
by Al Hirschfeld

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Neva's website: www.nevasmall.com

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**NEVA
SMALL**



**NOT
QUITE
AN
INGENUUE**



Neva Small doesn't remember the first time she met me. I was playing auditions for a musical television program. Each of the vocalists worked privately with me for five or ten minutes, then they all sat in a circle and sang for the casting people and each other. I remember the thrill of working with her, because all of the other singers were struggling actors yet to break into their success, but Neva was a star. She'd had major roles in several Broadway shows (including *Henry, Sweet Henry*) in her teens, and she had just opened in the film version of *Fiddler on the Roof*. The TV show never happened, but almost twenty years later, I signed on to musical direct a CD version of Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations* – and once again Neva Small was there. And she was still a star. What impressed me most at that second meeting was her flexibility as a performer. We'd rehearse songs one way, and then at the recording the composer would ask her to do something totally different. "Sure. Whatever you need," she'd say. Not everyone in that extensive and celebrated cast reacted with her ease.

What had happened over those twenty years is what has driven this CD. When I'd first met Neva, she hadn't yet finished college. Or her two advanced masters degree programs at NYU. Or married her dermatologist and with him raised two children. She hadn't lost the two parents who had molded her career as a child star. She hadn't been cast opposite Robert Preston in what everyone predicted would be her breakthrough Broadway role (*The Prince of Grand Street* closed out of town).

In fact, she'd gone from ingénue to the very status she celebrates in her one-woman concert upon which this CD is based – from ingénue to not-*quite*-an-*ingénue*. The concert (*Neva Small: Not Quite an Ingénue*) marks her first return to cabaret singing since the release of her first solo CD, *My Place in the World*, which featured numbers – many of them never before recorded – from many productions with which she'd been associated over the years. It is a musical theater aficionado's dream, one obscure song after another.

To be sure, her program needed to include some of those numbers (you gotta sell CD's). But that collection had been a concept. It told the tale of the professional Neva, but not the personal one. *Not Quite an Ingénue* needed to include personal stories – triumphs and defeats. It needed to celebrate the civilian Neva that informs the professional one.

As the person helping her shape her show, I insisted on only one thing: that Neva absolutely and unequivocally *love* singing every song in it. This was my job: "Do you love it? No. Then it's out. Yes? OK, it's in!" Once we had the program planned, Neva sought out the services of the obviously talented Don Rebic, who provides all the right touches to the piano arrangements and accompaniment. And she called her friend Pamela Hall to turn many hours of anecdotes into seemingly spontaneous patter, and to direct her through the arc of the evening. As a Broadway veteran herself, and a wife and mother, Pamela could identify with Neva's journey from personal experience. Together, they entertain us with the experiences that make their lives unique, and embrace us with experiences common to all our lives.

— Jay Kerr

- 1 **A Cockeyed Optimist** (Richard Rodgers/Oscar Hammerstein / Arr: Fred Barton) (2:29)
- 2 **The Girl with Too Much Heart** (Bob Merrill / Arr: Fred Barton) (2:59)
- 3 **Wait 'Till We're 65** (Burton Lane/Alan Jay Lerner / Arr: Fred Barton) (2:23)
- 4 **My Funny Valentine** (Richard Rodgers/Lorenz Hart / Arr: Don Rebic) (4:26)
- 5 **Short John (Doctor Blues)** (Elroy Crane / Arr: Don Rebic) (3:13)
- 6 **Tea for Two** (Vincent Youmans/Irving Caesar / Arr: Sy Johnson) (4:02)
- 7 **Half of April, Most of May** (Michael Feinstein/Bob Merrill / Arr: Don Rebic) (2:41)
- 8 **Riverboat Shuffle** (Hoagy Carmichael/Mitchell Parish, Irving Mills, Dick Voynow; Johnny Mercer, Frank Loesser, Sid Arodin, Stuart Gorrell / Arr: Jay Kerr) (2:02)
- 9 **Portrait** (Amanda McBroom / Arr: Don Rebic) (3:30)
- 10 **By the Lake in Central Park** (Sy Johnson/Russell George, Neva Small, Jay Kerr / Arr: Sy Johnson) (2:30)
- 11 **Job Application** (Billy Goldenberg/Alan and Marilyn Bergman / Arr: Don Rebic) (2:25)
- 12 **Peach Ice Cream** (G. Wood / Arr: Fred Barton) (3:22)
- 13 **Fiddler on the Roof Medley** (Jerry Bock/Sheldon Harnick / Arr: Sy Johnson) (3:12)
- 14 **Not Quite an Ingenue** (Jay Kerr) (2:59)
- 15 **In My Daughter's Eyes** (James Slater / Arr: Don Rebic) (3:43)
- 16 **I Go On** (Leonard Bernstein/Stephen Schwartz / Arr: Colin Romoff) (3:00)

SPECIAL THANKS:

When you see one name above a title, when you see a one-person show, when a concert performer appears alone onstage, it is a certainty that behind that performer is a host of collaborators whose job may range from preparing that person to perform – artistically or spiritually – to adorning a face and a body to highlight its strengths and minimize its weaknesses. And a family that makes the struggles worthwhile, or at very least puts them in perspective.

For their help in making *Neva Small: Not Quite an Ingenue* a concert and a recording, I'd like to thank Chip Fabrizi, Michael Feinstein, Ed Gaynes, Pamela Hall, Mrs. William J. Hiers, Jay & Lynn Kerr, Suzanne Merrill, Don Rebic, Shelley Roberts, Dick Sarpola, Letty Simon, Ron Spivak, Bob Victor, Walter Willison and the Coalition School; and, as always, Arielle Ochoa Fenig, Barbara Fenig, and my husband and dermatologist, Fred Fenig.

— Neva



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