

Choice Cuts

by Cam Miller



If It's true that two heads are better than one does that make four hands better than two? Not always, particularly when there are 40 fingers roaming over a piano keyboard at the same time.

No problem here though. Instead it's a delight to hear Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderighi paired for

nearly an hour of four-handed piano artistry. This is their first recording together though Trick's

work alone is well documented on earlier CDs.

What makes this outing highly interesting is that Trick is an acclaimed ragtime pianist while her partner is deep into pianists that emerged during the swing era, giants with the names of Teddy Wilson, Erroll

Garner, Earl Hines and their contemporaries.

But once you listen to how beautifully they stay out of each other's way when it's called for while blending together at other times, you know these youngish musicians have their act together. For example, when an arrangement

a boogie bent, Trick takes over whereas it's Paolo who handles the Garner stuff on "Exactly Like You." But on "The World Is Waiting For The Sunrise" they share the honors.

And so it goes, whether it's on "Temptation Rag" a Trick treat, "Begin The Beguine," the flapper era "Charleston" or a racing "Running Wild." Nailed they are, all of them.

Don't misunderstand, it's not one of those "he played, she played" ventures but is blessed by a common thread — jazz in one form or another — from flag-fall to finish played by two musicians who respect and enjoy their separate music interests. You will hear more of and from the pianists in the future. They can't miss, Trust me.

GRADE: A

(Ordering Info: e-mail info@oaoloandstephanie.com.)

**Paolo Alderighi/Stephanie Trick,
Two For One, Self-produced; 14
Selections, T: 59:48**