

ANNOTATED BY DAVID A. JASEN

FOLKWAYS RECORDS RFS 603

VINTAGE SHOW BIZ GREATS

SOPHIE TUCKER

WITH
JIMMY DURANTE - TALULLAH BANKHEAD



TED LEWIS



COVER DESIGN BY RONALD CLYNE

FOLKWAYS RECORDS RFS 603

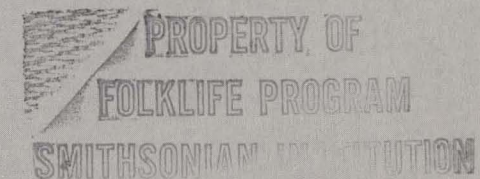
SIDE ONE

SOPHIE TUCKER with Jimmy Durante
SOPHIE TUCKER with Talullah Bankhead

SIDE TWO

TED LEWIS
This Old High Hat of Mine
I Count the Pleasures
I'm the Leader of the Band
It's My Old High Hat
Be Yourself
Tiger Rag (featured on clarinet)
On the Sunny Side of the Street

Edited by David A. Jasen
Compiled by Jerry Lyons
Remastered by Carl Seltzer



© © 1982 FOLKWAYS RECORDS AND SERVICE CORP.
43 W. 61st ST., N.Y.C., U.S.A. 10023

VINTAGE SHOW BIZ GREATS

**SOPHIE
TUCKER**

WITH
JIMMY DURANTE
TALULLAH BANKHEAD

**TED
LEWIS**

ANNOTATED BY DAVID A. JASEN

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

FOLKWAYS RECORDS RFS 603

VINTAGE SHOW BIZ GREATS

SOPHIE TUCKER

WITH JIMMY DURANTE
TALULLAH BANKHEAD

TED LEWIS

ANNOTATED BY DAVID A. JASEN

Show business is particularly prone toward exaggeration. And word-of-mouth spreads incredibly quickly. Show business, in the public's eye, is romantic and show business feeds on that romanticism. We, the public, like to idolize romantic figures and we especially cherish those who have managed to stay in the limelight for an unusually long time. Milestones are very important, not only to the participants, but to the public as well. We hold in high esteem the first of anything and the last of anything. Anniversaries are given prominence - 50th anniversaries in particular. This album celebrates two such legends-in-their-own-time and, incidentally, gives us a glimpse of two others.

Sophie Tucker, born Sophia Abuza on January 13, 1884 in Boston, Massachusetts, began her career as a waitress/singer in her father's restaurant when she was twenty-one. She appeared in cafes and vaudeville until she secured a place in the Ziegfeld Follies of 1909. She made her first cylinder recordings for Edison in 1910. It was during her tour in Chicago where she was introduced to young songwriter Shelton Brooks, who persuaded her to use his new song, SOME OF THESE DAYS. She immediately became identified with it and used it as her theme song. Sophie was always on the lookout for fresh material and encouraged many a fledgling songwriter. As a result, she introduced and made hits of almost as many songs as Eddie Cantor and Al Jolson.

With pianist-composer Ted Shapiro as her accompanist, she achieved permanent stardom in the early twenties. Her appearance on Broadway became a regular pattern. She had her own radio show, continued in Vaudeville, pioneered in movie musicals as early as 1929 and irregularly appeared in them, from 1925 on Sophie was a hit in London's West End where she returned with regularity for the rest of her life. She was always in demand as a guest star on radio and then on television. Her fans demanded she play the biggest nightclubs frequently. She was an enthusiastic person whose vitality and interest quickly communicated itself to her audiences. She was truly beloved,

not only to her large and faithful public, but also among her peers and managers. Her philosophy was beautifully expressed in her 1945 autobiography, *SOME OF THESE DAYS*. And while her professional life ran smoothly, her personal life was filled with disappointment and frustration. Known as "The Last of the Red Hot Mamas," Sophie died at the age of 82 on February 9, 1966.

It is not such a coincidence that two musical performers would work with each other sometime in their lengthy careers. It is certainly so in this case. Sophie Tucker and Ted Lewis co-starred in a Broadway revue, *LeMaire's Affairs*, in 1927 and even made a recording together.

This album includes Sophie's debut on television - on the Jimmy Durante Show. The other sequence comes from *Talullah Bankhead's* great radio variety program, *The Big Show*, when Sophie made one of her guest-star appearances.


Ted Lewis was born on June 6, 1892 in Circleville, Ohio as Theodore Leopold Friedman. He began his extraordinary 60 year career in vaudeville in 1911 as part of Rose, Young and Friedman. He formed a band to play the New York cafes, striking it rich when he obtained a position at Rector's. Ted started making records in 1919 and continued into the LP era. He was a clarinetist (a sample is heard on this album) who wore a battered top hat while leading a dance band which, for much of his career, included many famous jazzmen (Muggsy Spanier, Benny Goodman, Fats Waller). His theme song, for which he co-wrote the lyrics, was *WHEN MY BABY SMILES AT ME* and he would end practically every number with the catch-phrase, "Is Everybody Happy?"

Ted appeared in many Broadway revues during the two decades starting with the *Greenwich Village Follies* of 1919. As mentioned earlier, he and Sophie Tucker co-starred in the *Rufus Lemaire* revue for 1927. Like Sophie, he appeared in movies starting in 1929, toured Europe frequently, appeared in radio as guest artist, and scored heavily in nightclubs. Toward the end, he was an infrequent guest on television shows. He died in New York City on August 25, 1971.

CREDITS

Annotation by David A. Jasen

Remastering by Carl Seltzer

LITHO IN U.S.A. 

FOLKWAYS Records

AND SERVICE CORP., 43 W. 61st ST., N.Y.C. 10023
Long Playing Non-Breakable Micro Groove 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ RPM

VINTAGE SHOW BIZ GREATS:

SOPHIE TUCKER & TED LEWIS

Annotated by DAVID A. JASEN

SIDE 1

RFS 603 A

SOPHIE TUCKER with Jimmy Durante
SOPHIE TUCKER with Talullah Bankhead

Total Time: 28:46

© 1982 by Folkways Records & Service Corp.

FOLKWAYS Records

AND SERVICE CORP., 43 W. 61st ST., N.Y.C. 10023
Long Playing Non-Breakable Micro Groove 33 1/3 RPM

VINTAGE SHOW BIZ GREATS:

SOPHIE TUCKER & TED LEWIS

Annotated by DAVID A. JASEN

SIDE 2

RFS 603 B

TED LEWIS

THIS OLD HIGH HAT OF MINE
I COUNT THE PLEASURES
I'M THE LEADER OF THE BAND
IT'S MY OLD HIGH HAT
BE YOURSELF

TIGER RAG (featured on clarinet)
ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET

Total Time: 26:31

© © 1982 by Folkways Records & Service Corp.