

MUSIC REVIEW

MAD MEN: MUSIC FROM THE SERIES VOLUME 1

By Reuben Sturman

Specs:

Discs: One

Label: Manhattan/Bluenote

Running Time: 38:53

Stand out tracks: “A Beautiful Mine” by Aceyalone & RJD2, and “Manhattan” by Ella Fitzgerald

Earworm: “Botch-a-me” by Rosemary Clooney

Collecting 13 tracks used in the first season of the acclaimed AMC drama, *Mad Men: Music from the Series Volume 1* mixes a number of period songs and contemporary score selections into one convenient package no one needs or wants.

The album intersperses pop songs from acts like Rosemary Clooney and The McGuire Sisters with old and new instrumental jazz pieces, some from series composer, David Carbonara. But let’s be honest, if you’re really in to Vic Damone or Bobby Vinton, you probably already own most of their respective catalogues. (If not, don’t panic. They’re not going anywhere.)

The liner notes offer little information about the selections, either historically or in relation to the show, and what’s provided doesn’t answer the obvious question: how did underground Hip Hop artists RJD2 and Aceyalone end up producing the theme?

Offering under 40 minutes of music, this first volume is unnecessarily short. (It’s surprising to hear “P.S. I Love You,” a song less than two and half minutes long, trimmed for length.) Fans of MAD MEN will find this first volume noticeably incomplete, and would be better off downloading their favorite singles.

Even Don Draper would have a hard time selling this package.