



HARRY CONNICK, JR.

EAST VILLAGE

Not just anyone can bring back the music of the big band era, but Harry Connick, Jr., looks like a good bet. "No matter what the reason is, whether they find me attractive or I'm young or I sing or I play piano," he says, "the fact that [fans] come and they listen and they bring *their* friends tells me that this music has a chance of becoming more popular than it is now."

Connick's slow, sensual New Orleans drawl doesn't seem to belong in New York City; it belies a manic energy that's as apparent in person as it is in concert. Just twenty-three, Connick has made his name playing such standards as "It Had to Be You" and "Love Is Here to Stay" but is now branching out with his own musical material—both vocal and jazz instrumental.

Connick moved to New York when he was eighteen because rumor had it Columbia Records wanted to sign him, and "pretty much New York is the place to be if you want to make it in the music business." Due to his busy touring schedule, Connick's rarely in the city, and when he is, he doesn't like to go out on the town. "That's what I do for a living," he says.

Like all charmers, Connick can make you believe anything, even that he's sincere when he says, "I just love to play and I'm fortunate to have the opportunity to play in wonderful places and with wonderful people and for wonderful people. And I just try to give them what I think is nice, and forget all that show business stuff." With that kind of charisma and affability, Connick is sure to win converts.

LAURA JACK