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## ABOUT LAST NIGHT

TERRY TEACHOUT on the arts in New York City  
(with OUR GIRL IN CHICAGO and CARRIE FRYE)

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July 19, 2008

### CD

Cy Walter, *Rodgers Revisited: Cy Walter Plays Richard Rodgers Compositions* (Collectables). Two years after I *heralded* the first CD reissue of the long-forgotten recordings of Cy Walter, the man who turned cocktail piano into an art, a sequel has finally come along. Walters' 1956 recital of thirteen songs by Richard Rodgers, originally released by Atlantic, is as suave and elegant a display of piano playing as has ever been committed to disc--but don't be fooled by the high gloss. Alec Wilder said in his original liner notes that "anyone who has heard his own songs played by Cy immediately has a greater respect for his own work....though utterly respectful of the composers and songwriters whose music he plays, he is also highly complex both rhythmically and harmonically in his interpretations of their music, all the while maintaining a constant balance of delicacy and sensitiveness." Listen to "The Gentleman is a Dope" and you'll hear what Wilder meant. More, please! (TT).

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Posted July 19, 2008 12:12 PM

### ABOUT...

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#### ABOUT "ABOUT LAST NIGHT" AND ITS AUTHORS

This is a blog about the arts in New York City and the rest of America, written by **Terry Teachout**, **Laura Demanski** (otherwise known as Our Girl in Chicago, or "OGIC" for short), and **Carrie Frye** (who signs her postings "CAAF"). Terry, who lives in New York, is the drama critic of *The Wall Street Journal* and the music critic of *Commentary*. [more](#)

### **ABOUT TERRY'S BOOKS**

Terry recently finished writing *Rhythm Man: A Life of Louis Armstrong*, forthcoming in 2009 from Harcourt. He contributed an essay to Coudal Partners' newly published *Field-Tested Books* (as did OGIC) and wrote the introductions to *William Bailey on Canvas* and the paperback edition of Elaine Dundy's *The Dud Avocado*. [more](#)

### **ABOUT TERRY'S OPERA**

Terry is collaborating with Paul Moravec on *The Letter*, an operatic version of Somerset Maugham's 1927 play. It was commissioned by the Santa Fe Opera and will open there on July 25, 2009. Here is an ongoing series of progress reports on the writing and production of *The Letter*.

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### **SEE TERRY TALK**

To view Terry's December videoblog, go [here](#).

[Archive](#) 5155 entries and counting

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