



**PEDIGREE CONSULTANTS**  
THOROUGHBRED CONSULTANCY & MANAGEMENT

## **COMMERCIAL ANALYSIS:**

### **SONGBIRD**

**PREPARED BY: ALAN PORTER**

**PREPARED FOR: FASIG-TIPTON KENTUCKY**

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## SONGBIRD

In recent times, few fillies have been more charismatic than Songbird. Very few indeed have been more accomplished.

An Eclipse Award winning Champion at two and three, and a candidate again this year at four, Songbird made all but the first of her 15 starts in graded stakes company, 11 of them in grade one events. Despite frequently winning in hand, her 13 victories were captured by a total of 62½ lengths – or an average of nearly five lengths per race – and her two defeats were by inches. In carving out this remarkable record, Songbird defeated many of the best of her era, among them Stellar Wind, Cathryn Sophia, Forever Unbridled, I'm a Chatterbox, Curalina, Rachel's Valentina, Nickname, Carina Mia, and Weep No More.

Very much the complete racehorse, Songbird won at six, seven, eight, eight and a half, nine and 10 furlongs. She scored on fast and sloppy tracks, and at seven different racecourses. At two, Songbird was untested, following her maiden win with victories in the Del Mar Debutante Stakes (gr. I), Chandelier Stakes (gr. I), and Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (gr. I). In both the Chandelier Stakes and Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies, she ran faster times than those achieved by juvenile colts in grade one contests over the same course and distance on the same day, her Breeders' Cup clocking being 1.06 seconds faster than Champion Two-Year-Old Colt and subsequent Kentucky Derby (gr. I) victor, Nyquist. An overwhelming choice for Champion Two-Year-Old filly, Songbird was rated 5 lbs. clear of the next horse on the Experimental Free Handicap for fillies.

The story was the same for Songbird's three-year-old campaign. As Songbird romped through the Las Virgenes Stakes (gr. II), Santa Ysabel Stakes (gr. III), Santa Anita Oaks (gr. I), Summer Oaks (gr. II), CCA Oaks (gr. I), Alabama Stakes (gr. I), and Cotillion Stakes (gr. I), no rival was able to finish closer than 3¾ length in arrears. The year was climaxed by an epic battle with one of history's great mares, Beholder, in the Breeders' Cup Distaff (gr. I). A four-time Eclipse Award winner, Beholder had not only dominated several generations of females, but had also thrashed top-class colts when taking the Pacific Classic Stakes (gr. I). Songbird and Beholder delivered a race for the ages. In a contest described by the *Daily Racing Form* as "legendary," Songbird set the pace then dueled with Beholder through the length of stretch. At the wire, the remarkable duo was inseparable to the eye, the camera ultimately deciding that Songbird had been denied by the scantest of noses. These efforts earned Songbird an inevitable second Eclipse Award, this time as Champion Three-Year-Old Filly, and a place alongside California Chrome and Arrogate as a finalist for Horse of the Year. She was also co-highweighted three-year-old filly – with dual classic winner and seven time group one scorer Minding – on the World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 2016.

Songbird returned to the fray at four, adding victories in the Ogden Phipps Handicap (gr. I) and Delaware Handicap (gr. I). On her final start she ran a remarkable race to miss by just a

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neck to Forever Unbridled – a three-time grade one winner who also took third in the Breeders' Cup Distaff (gr. I) – in the Personal Ensign Stakes (gr. I), while attempting to overcome problems that would lead to her retirement.

Songbird is by the wonderful Medaglia d'Oro, a horse who is firmly established as one of the world's finest sires. He is already sire of over 100 stakes winners, and has sired champions on three different continents. Medaglia d'Oro has been represented by 18 group or grade one winners, including Songbird; the immortal Rachel Alexandra, who ranks among greatest fillies ever to run in North America; Kentucky Oaks (gr. I) heroine Plum Pretty; Passion For Gold, Champion Two-Year-Old Colt in France; Vancouver, Champion Two-Year-Old Colt in Australia; and multiple grade one winners Marketing Mix, Mshawish, New Money Honey, Gabby's Golden Gal, and Champagne d'Oro. In 2017, Medaglia d'Oro has already been represented by 12 stakes winners, including, in addition to Songbird, Bolt d'Oro, successful in the Del Mar Futurity (gr. I); the Alabama Stakes (gr. I) heroine Elate; Dickinson, who took the Jenny Wiley Stakes (gr. I); and New Money Honey. Given that he is such an exceptional filly sire, one would expect Medaglia d'Oro to become a major broodmare sire, and indeed that does appear to be a developing trend. The first foals out of Medaglia d'Oro mares were only three in 2013, but he is already broodmare sire of 11 stakes winners, including grade one winners Rock Fall and Rachel's Valentina.

Considering the distaff side of her pedigree, we see that Songbird comes from a very active branch of an historic family. She is out of Ivanavinalot, who is by a son of Forty Niner, which means that she is bred on the same cross as Rachel Alexandra, who is also by Medaglia d'Oro and out of a mare by a son of Forty Niner.

Ivanavinalot was an accomplished and versatile runner in her own right. She was a three-time stakes winner at two, taking the Brave Raj Stakes, My Dear Girl Stakes, and Susan's Girl Stakes, and at three added the Bonnie Miss Stakes (gr. II), as well as placing in the Davona Dale Stakes (gr. II) and My Charmer Handicap (gr. III). Ivanavinalot is also dam of Songbird's half-sister, the graded stakes producing Wide Range, dam of Mico Margarita, a near \$500,000 earner who took the Carry Back Stakes (gr. III) by 4½ lengths.

Ivanavinalot is half-sister to stakes winners Shananie's Beat and Slick Lady, and to stakes placed Beaties for Real, the dam of graded stakes winners Friel's For Real and stakes winners Ryan's For Real, Onepointhreekarats, and Little Thunder, and granddam of stakes winner Coco's Wildcat.

Songbird goes back to Floral Park, winner of the Bellerose Handicap – a race equivalent to what is now a grade two event – and also ancestress of two-time Champion Sprint Filly or Mare Groupie Doll, and of Demoiselle Stakes (gr. I) victress Rootentootenwooten. Floral Park is a sister to an even more illustrious mare in Flower Bowl, successful in the Delaware Handicap – now a grade one event – and from only five foals, dam of Champion Two-Year-

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Old and Champion Three-Year-Old Filly Bowl of Flowers; of the brilliant racehorse and important sire Graustark; and His Majesty, major stakes winner and Champion Sire. Floral Park and Flower Bowl are also three-quarters sisters to Your Hostess, ancestress of Real Quiet and Majestic Prince, both winners of the Kentucky Derby (gr. I) and Preakness Stakes (gr. I); Epsom Derby (gr. I) victor Secreto; and French Derby (gr. I) scorer Caracolero.

How does one evaluate a mare with such an extraordinary race-record and exceptional pedigree? Perhaps Hall of Fame rider, Mike Smith – who was aboard Songbird for every one of her races –summed it up best with statement that “I’d certainly give all I had for her.”

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