play

Peppermint Harris – Lonesome As I Can Be (2001)



- 1. True Love 2:23
- 2. Marking Time 2:39
- 3. Bad Bad Woman 2:39
- 4. Mama Mama 1:58
- 5. Anything You Can Do 2:36
- 6. Raining In My Heart 3:27
- 7. My Time After Awhile 3:00
- 8. Unlucky 2:25
- 9. True Confession 2:41
- 10. Tell Me I Can Come Home 2:19
- 11. Anytime Is The Right Time 2:38
- 12. Wait Until It Happens To You 2:09
- 13. Bad Bad Whiskey 2:16
- 14. Lonesome As I Can Be 2:26
- 15. Little Girl 2:02 play
- 16. 24 Hours 2:39
- 17. My Woman 4:17
- 18. Nighty Night 3:00
- 19. I'm Leaving 2:59
- 20. Key To The Highway 3:12
- 21. Raining In My Heart 3:24

Texas R&B singer Peppermint Harris is best known for two early-'50s hits, the classic "Rainin' in My Heart" and "I Get Loaded," a drunken boast that led to a slew of other drinking songs from Harris, typecasting him as the man with a bottle in his hand, a mixed blessing at best. With an easy baritone that came across as a sort of late-night version of Sam Cooke on too many whiskey shots, Harris arguably did his best work with Jewel Records, a Louisiana label owned and run by Stan "The Record Man" Lewis. While he didn't have any huge hits between 1965

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and 1971, the length of his stay at Jewel, Harris nonetheless produced some solid material, as this anthology shows. He reprises his self-penned "Rainin' in My Heart" twice here, and turns in a fine version of Big Bill Broonzy's "Key to the Highway," as well, and working with a large band, he shows a real talent for songwriting, vocal phrasing, and arrangement. There aren't a lot of Peppermint Harris CDs on the market, and while the 1950s Aladdin sides are more famous, this one, given its consistent tone and excellent sound, makes for probably a better introduction to Harris' unique version of Texas R&B. ---Steve Leggett, Rovi

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