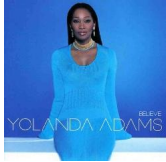


Yolanda Adams – Believe (2001)

Written by bluesever
Sunday, 26 July 2015 15:41 -

Yolanda Adams – Believe (2001)



1. *Never Give Up* 2. *I Gotta Believe* 3. *Fo' Sho'* - (featuring Karen Clark-Sheard) 4. *Thank You*
5. *A Song of Faith* 6. *Unconditional* 7. *Anything* 8. *Only If God Says Yes* 9. *Since the Last Time I Saw You* 10. *I'm Gonna Be Ready* 11. *Darling Girl* 12. *I'm Thankful* Yolanda Adams (vocals, background vocals) Karen Clark-Sheard (vocals) T-Bone (rap vocals) Professa (guitar, bass guitar) Eric Walz, Jay Williams, John Jubu Smith (guitar) Connie Ellisor, Mary Kathryn Van Osdale, Carl Gorodetzky, Pamela Sixfin, David Davidson, Lee Larrison, Alan Umstead, Catherine Umstead (violin) David Angel, Jim Grosjean, Kris Wilkinson, Gary VanOsdale (viola) Mike Haynes, Mark Douthit, Jeff Bailey (trumpet) Chris McDonald (trombone) Kevin Bond (keyboards, programming, background vocals) James "Big Jim" Wright (keyboards, background vocals) Grant Nicholas, Shep Crawford, Bobby Ross Avila (keyboards) Iz, Ishmael Ferguson, Jeremy Haynes (drums) Alexander Richbourg (drum programming) Onitsha Shaw, Greater Philipian Youth Choir, New Life Cogic Youth Choir, Deirdra Coker, Clint Turner, Naybu Fullman, Tanjala Wright, Kim Washington, Lisa Keith, Big Jim (background vocals)

While Yolanda Adams' voice is as warm and enveloping as a cozy blanket, the lush album opener "Never Give Up" lacks the against-all-odds passion the song's title suggests. Listeners are left anticipating a heart-rending crescendo, but that explosive musical and vocal peak never happens, even when Adams belts in vein-popping intensity at the song's end. What's the problem? This song and most of the fare on *Believe* are plagued by formulaic R&B and gospel arrangements, predictable key changes and progressions, and less-than-moving lyrics. The album does not justly showcase Adams' fullest vocal potential, which, to be sure, she has in spades based on past recordings. Adams should secure better songwriters and producers. Without them, her many talents go wasted. She can and should do better. ---Liana Jonas, Rovi

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