

Anne McCue - Blue Sky Thinkin' (2015)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Dig Two Graves* 2. *Things You Left Out In The Rain* 3. *Spring Cleaning In The Wintertime* 4. *Devil In The Middle* 5. *Long Tall Story* 6. *Little White Cat* 7. *It Wasn't Even Fun While It Lasted* 8. *Save A Life* 9. *Uncanny Moon* 10. *Cowgirl Blues* 11. *Knock On Wood* 12. *Blue Sky Thinkin'* Anne McCue – guitar, vocals Dusty Wakeman – bass Dave Raven – drums Carl Byron – keyboards Deanie Richardson – violin Jim Hoke – clarinet Steve Herrman – trumpet John Hinchey – trombone

I just received the newest release (February 10, 2015), *Blue Sky Thinkin'*, from Anne McCue and it takes you to a different place. Opening the release is *Dig Two Graves*, a swinging blues track with smooth vocals and slick guitar work from McCue, joined by Dave Raven on drums, Carl Byron on piano, Dusty Wakeman on bass and Deanie Richardson on violin. *Things You Left Out In The Rain* is a cool period blues style track with silky vocals and great jazz style horn work from Jim Hoke (clarinet), Steve Herrman (trumpet) and John Hinchey (trombone). *Spring Cleaning In The Winter Time* is a light hearted track with some fleet fingered guitar work from McCue. *Devil In The Middle*, co written by Dave Alvin and David Olney features McCue and Alvin in duet and classic early blues instrumentation. This is that "New Orleans Jazz" in it's classic form. Featuring Hoke on clarinet, Randy Leago on sax, Steve Herrman on trumpet and John Hinchey on trombone ...Terrific! *Long Tall Story* has that Memphis Minnie sound with McCue on vocal and dobro. lightly backed by Carl Byron on piano and Dave Raven this track has a nice swing and cool melody. *Little White Cat* is a bit more upbeat with some hot lap riffs by McCue. With backing vocals by Szu Wong and bass by Djordje Stijepovic this track almost has a gypsy sound. Very cool! *It Wasn't Even Fun While It Lasted* has a theme which most everyone can relate to. Strong piano by Byron and violin by Richardson dress this simple melody making it quite a pleasant venture. *Save A Life* has a 50's jazz sound with only basics for backing with finger snaps and cool bass riffs by Dave Pomeroy. *Uncanny Moon* has a really nice Latin feel with stylized drums and piano. McCue's vocals are very nice but her guitar work is beautiful on this track. My definite favorite. *Cowgirl Blues* has a memorable melody and simple instrumentation with basic blues fundamentals but presented in a more modern manner. *Knock On Wood* again gets that moody horn soaked feel and it is performed flawlessly. With McCue on vocal and guitar with Tisha Simeral on bass, Bill Huber on trombone, Herrman on

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trumpet and Hoke on clarinet, this is quite a cool track. Title track Blue Sky Thinkin', is a poppy track really allowing McCue to step forward on guitar with clever jazz riffs, blended with Byron on piano and Hoke on clarinet. A very nice conclusion to a solid contemporary yet rootsy blues based release.

Also want to comment that I really like the cover art which is also by McCue.
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