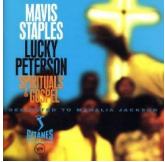


Mavis Staples & Lucky Peterson - Spirituals & Gospel (1996)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 27 January 2018 17:32 -

Mavis Staples & Lucky Peterson - Spirituals & Gospel (1996)



1 *Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen* 5:03 2 *A Rusty Old Halo* 2:52 3 *He's Got The Whole World In His Hands* 4:02 4 *If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again* 4:08 5 *Wade In The Water* 3:47 6 *Precious Lord Take My Hand* 6:08 7 *I'll Fly Away From Here* 4:09 8 *Were You There* 4:04 9 *Go Down, Moses* 5:39 10 *Steal Away* 3:32 11 *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* 3:28 12 *Down By The Riverside* 3:50 13 *Stand By Me* 3:59 Organ [Hammond B-3], Piano – Lucky Peterson Voice – Mavis Staples

Recorded in Louisiana, not terribly far from Mahalia Jackson's birthplace, this is a 13-song tribute to the legendary Queen of Gospel. Staples leads all the tracks with Lucky Peterson on the Hammond B-3 organ. This is a very bare-bones set, and after the fourth song, "If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again," the format becomes boring and the songs begin to sound similar. There's nothing unique about these arrangements: Peterson's riffs are fun the first couple of times but quickly grow repetitive, and the choice of songs is decidedly depressing --- "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" -- and although Staples sings them with zeal, the overall package lacks the flair, creativity and sense of celebration such a project should connote. ---Bil Carpenter, AllMusic Review

It's moments like these when you wish you hadn't used words like "spine-tingling," "passionate," and "gritty" in other reviews. By the time of these 1996 duo sessions, Staples's voice had gotten grainier and earthier than it was during her glory days, and is all the more expressive and heart wrenching because of it. Meanwhile, Peterson's work on Hammond B-3 and piano is nothing short of astonishing--urgent, soulful, and pulsating--yet it never overwhelms Staples's burning pleas. Billed as a tribute to Mahalia Jackson, these 13 familiar cuts are soaked to the bone with blues inflections that deftly illustrate the intimate relationship between blues and spirituals. The

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pair's inspirational sermon will make believers out of even the most resolute cynics. --Marc Greilsamer, Editorial Reviews

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