

## Mighty Sparrow – Sparromania (2012)

Written by bluesever

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CD1: 01 – Bongo (feat. Conrad Little and His Big Band) 02 – Zinah (feat. Ed Watson and Sparrow's Troubadours) 03 – Fool Fool Fool 04 – Calypso Boogaloo (feat. The Ron Berridge Orchestra) 05 – Congo Man 06 – Slave (feat. Bert Inniss and the National Recording Orchestra) 07 – Kennedy and Krushchev (feat. Bert Inniss and the National Recording Orchestra) 08 – Ten to One Is Murder (feat. Frankie Francis and His Orchestra) 09 – She's Been Gone Too Long 10 – Mi Son Cha 11 – Sweet Loving (feat. Sparrow's Calypso Troubadours) 12 – Shango Man (Live At The Hilton, Barbados) [feat. Bert Inniss and his Orchestra] 13 – Oriental Touch 14 – Ah Diggin' Horrors (feat. Sparrow's Calypso Troubadours) 15 – Try a Little Tenderness (feat. Byron Lee) [play](#) CD2: 01 – Bois Bande 02 – Sparrow Dead (feat. Conrad Little and His Big Band) 03 – Renegades (feat. RCA All-Star Recording Orchestra) 04 – Sparrow vs. Melody Picong [play](#) 05 – Jook for Jook (feat. The Ron Berridge Orchestra) 06 – Lion & Dunkey (Re-Match) [feat. Sparrow's Calypso Troubadours] 07 – Witch Doctor 08 – Big Bamboo (feat. National Recording Calypso Band) 09 – Sparrow Come Back Home (feat. RCA All-Star Recording Orchestra) 10 – Rose 11 – No Money, No Love (Live At The Hilton, Barbados) [feat. Bert Inniss and his Orchestra] 12 – Letter from Miami 13 – Dancehall Brawl 14 – What's the Use of Getting Sober

Sub-titled "wit, wisdom and soul from the King of Calypso 1962-74", this two-album set provides a reminder of the varied skills of the singer-songwriter who dominated Caribbean music in the pre-reggae era, but fails to provide quite the tribute he deserves. Mighty Sparrow was celebrated for his powerful vocals, his fusion of calypso with jazz and soul, and for his brave, often controversial lyrics. This curiously constructed set starts with a batch of his lesser songs such as Calypso Boogaloo, but improves with the outrageous, decidedly non-PC Congo Man. His famed songs of sexual bragging include the cheerfully witty Big Bamboo and Bois Bande, the autobiographical pieces include the gloriously upbeat Sparrow Come Back Home, but there are surprisingly few of his political songs. Kennedy and Khrushchev is a pro-American reaction to the Cuban missile crisis, while Ah Diggin' Horrors is an angry, brass-backed story of bad

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news and hard times. Best of all, there's the powerful and thoughtful lament Slave, providing further proof that Sparrow was no mere novelty singer. ---Robin Denselow, guardian.co.uk

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