Jimmy McGriff □ – Tailgunner (1977)



1 Tailgunner 5:38 2 Bullfrog 5:45 3 Sky Hawk 5:58 4 Flexible Flyer 6:09 5 Grandma's Toe Jam 6:09 6 Starlite Ballroom, Hot Licks Band Stomp 5:47 Bass – Babbitt, Francisco Centano, Will Lee Conductor [Orchestra] – Brad Baker Drums – Alan Schwartzberg, Jimmy Young, Ron Zito Flute [Solo] – George Young Guitar – Jerry Friedman, Jimmy Ponder, Lance Quinn Horns – Alan Rubin, Barry Rogers, Dave Taylor, Eddie Danials, George Young, Joe Randazzo, John Sheply, Jack Frosk, Lew Delgatto, Marvin Stamm, Dominic Menardo, Randy Brecker Keyboards – Pat Rebillot, Paul Griffin, Ralph Schuckett Percussion – Jimmy Maelen, Rubens Bassini Saxophone [Alto, Tenor, Solos] – George Young Strings – Gene Orloff, Gerald Tarack, Guy Lumia, Harry Lookofsky, Jesse Levy, Julian Barber, Paul Gershman, Richard Locker, Richard Maximoff, W. Sanford Allen, Tony Posk Vocals – Al Downing, Denise Wooten, Patricia Johnson

Jimmy McGriff, one of the all-time giants of the Hammond B-3, Jimmy McGriff sometimes gets lost amid all the great soul-jazz organists from his hometown of Philadelphia. He was almost certainly the bluesiest of the major soul-jazz pioneers, and indeed, he often insisted that he was more of a blues musician than a jazz artist; nonetheless, he remained eclectic enough to blur the lines of classification. His sound -- deep, down-to-earth grooves drenched in blues and gospel feeling -- made him quite popular with R&B audiences, even more so than some of his peers; what was more, he was able to condense those charms into concise, funky, jukebox-ready singles that often did surprisingly well on the R&B charts.

McGriff spent much of the '70s trying to keep pace with the fusion movement, switching to various electric keyboards and adopting an increasingly smooth, polished style. As the '80s dawned, McGriff gave up trying to sound contemporary and returned to his classic organ-trio sound; as luck would have it, vintage soul-jazz soon came back into vogue with a devoted cult of fans and critics, and McGriff was able to recover his creative vitality and take his place as one of the genre's elder statesmen.---bluenote.com

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