

Diana Krall – The Look of Love (2001)

Written by bluesever

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01. *S'Wonderful* 02. *Love Letters* 03. *I Remember You* 04. *Cry Me a River* 05. *Besame Mucho* 06. *The Night We Called it a Day* 07. *Dancing In The Dark* 08. *I Get Along Without You Very Well* 09. *The Look of Love* 10. *Maybe You'll Be There* Personnel Diana Krall - piano, vocals Dori Caymmi - guitar Romero Lubambo Russell Malone John Pisano Luis Conte - percussion Paulinho Da Costa - percussion Peter Erskine - drums Jeff Hamilton - bass, drums Christian McBride - double bass London Symphony Orchestra Claus Ogerman - conductor, arranger

Diana Krall has a good voice and plays decent piano, but this somewhat ridiculously packaged Verve CD seems like an obvious attempt to turn her into a pop icon, and sex symbol to boot. The bland arrangements by Claus Ogerman (who conducts the London Symphony Orchestra or the Los Angeles Session Orchestra on each track) border on easy listening, while Krall and her various supporting musicians, including John Pisano, Russell Malone, Christian McBride, and Peter Erskine (among others), clearly seem stifled by their respective roles. There are plenty of strong compositions here, including standards like "I Remember You," "The Night We Called It a Day," and "I Get Along Without You Very Well," but the unimaginative and often syrupy charts take their toll on the performances. What is even sillier is the label's insistence on attempting to photograph the artist in various sultry poses, which she evidently wants to discourage by refusing to provide much of a smile (the rumor is that she's not happy with this part of the business at all). If you are looking for unchallenging background music, this will fit the bill, but jazz fans are advised to check out Krall's earlier releases instead. --- Ken Dryden, Rovi

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