

Eartha Kitt - Purr-Fect. Greatest Hits (2020)

Written by bluesever (Bogdan Marszałkowski)
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Eartha Kitt - Purr-Fect. Greatest Hits (2020)



1 *Just an Old Fashioned Girl* 2 *Je Cherche Un Homme* 3 *I Want to Be Evil* 4 *Mink, Schmink* 5 *Let's Do It* 6 *C'est Si Bon* 7 *Annie Doesn't Live Here Anymore* 8 *Monotonous* 9 *My Heart Belongs to Daddy* 10 *Under the Bridges of Paris* 11 *I Wantcha Around* 12 *Lilac Wine* 13 *Somebody Bad Stole The Wedding Bell (Who's Got the Ding-Dong)* 14 *Thursday's Child* 15 *Angelitos Negros* 16 *Lovin' Spree* 17 *Toujours Gai (From "Shinbone Alley")* 18 *Uska Dara - A Turkish Tale* 19 *Proceed With Caution* 20 *The Blues* 21 *The Heel* 22 *Santa Baby*

In 1996, taxi patrons in New York were greeted with a tape of Eartha Kitt's famous "R"-rolling cat growl: "Wrrrrrrrow. Cats have nine lives, but you have only one. So buckle up." This was a reference to the source of her fame for the under-50 crowd: her stint as Catwoman on the '60s Batman TV series. But her abilities as a tantalizing, talented seductress stretch further back to her early '50s singing career, wearing tight-for-then voluptuous gowns instead of a catsuit. Both Kitt and her records predated rock & roll, but her 1953-1955 success was a hint that bad girl behavior would become prevalent. Never mind Phil Spector's later girl groups; Kitt could sully a polite orchestral backing with her sex kitten purring on hilariously libidinous numbers such as the number 22 hit "I Want to Be Evil," the number four hit "Santa Baby," "Mink Schmink," and her standard "C'est Si Bon," another Top Ten hit. Hearing her saucy tongue wrap around the words is amusing, but Kitt makes it sound so exotic, dangerous, and impetuous, you want to take her on. If this was torch singing, she was going to burn down the clubs she headlined. If she had been more R&B and more gimmicky, she could have been the female Screamin' Jay Hawkins. You can hear it in every syllable, the attitude and raucous delivery that made her a song stylist more than a pop singer, allowing her to survive the coming barrage of guitars and drums that would initially bury her career. She could always prosper in her other haunts of stage and screen, and in her nightclub act. But a collection of the best of her old LPs, RCA Victor Presents Eartha Kitt and The Bad Eartha is no "bad" idea. Tangle with her if you dare. ---Jack Rabid, AllMusic Review

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