Wes Montgomery - A Day in the Life (1967)

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1. "A Day in the Life" (John Lennon, Paul McCartney) 5:45 2. "Watch What Happens" (Jacques Demy, Norman Gimbel, Michel Legrand) 2:43 3. "When a Man Loves a Woman" (Calvin Lewis, Andrew Wright) 2:52 4. "California Nights" (Marvin Hamlisch, Howard Liebling) 2:29 5. "Angel" (Wes Montgomery) 2:46 6. "Eleanor Rigby" (Lennon, McCartney) 3:04 7. "Willow Weep for Me" (Ann Ronell) 4:31 8. "Windy" (Ruthann Friedman) 2:20 9. "Trust in Me" (Milton Ager, Arthur Schwartz, Jean Schwarz, Ned Wever) 4:25 10. "The Joker" (Leslie Bricusse, Anthony Newley) 3:26 Personnel Wes Montgomery – guitar Herbie Hancock – piano Ron Carter – bass Grady Tate – drums Ray Barretto – percussion Jack Jennings – percussion Joe Wohletz – percussion Ray Alonge – French Horn Phil Bodner – woodwind Julius Brand – violin Peter Buonconsigilio – violin Mac Ceppos – violin Lewis Eley – violin Harry Glickman – violin Harry Katzman – violin Leo Krucczek – violin Sylvan Shulman - violin Gene Orloff – violin Tosha Samaroff – violin Jack Zayde – violin Harry Urbont - violin Harold Coletta – viola Emanuel Vardi – viola George Marge – flute Joe Soldo – flute Romeo Penque – flute Margaret Ross – harp Alan Shulman – cello Charles McCracken – cello Stanley Webb - flute, woodwind

By the time Wes Montgomery recorded this album (his debut for A&M), he was a major name in the pop world. Montgomery's melodic renditions of current pop hits caught on and were played regularly on Top 40 radio. In most cases the guitarist did little more than play the melody, using his distinctive octaves, and it was enough to make him saleable. Of his three A&M recordings, A Day in the Life (the first one) was by far the best and, although the jazz content is almost nil, the results are pleasing as background music. "Windy" was a bit of a hit; the other selections (which find Montgomery backed by muzaky strings arranged by Don Sebesky) include "Watch What Happens," "California Nights," "Eleanor Rigby" and the title cut. ---Scott Yanow, Rovi

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