

Akiko - Commencement (2014)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Blues for Bandit* 5:19 2 *Funky Girl* 5:15 3 *When Johnny Comes Marching Home* 5:54 4 *How Deep is Your Love* 5:10 5 *Give Me the Simple Life* 5:13 6 *Spanish Flea* 4:40 7 *It's Easy to Remember* 6:15 8 *L-O-V-E* 6:12 9 *Don't Misunderstand* 6:10 10 *Commencement* 6:54
Drums – Jeff Hamilton Electric Organ [Hammond B3 Organ], Producer – AKIKO Guitar – John Hart

You know, it's been ten years since Akiko Tsuruga have released her brilliant debut recording, and since then this Queen Of The Organ have made absolutely tremendous progress in her magnificent music career that have resulted in many world tours and seven highly acclaimed albums under her belt including this one. Released in 2014 to glowing reviews, *Commencement* is another time-honoured addition to the great jazz organist's ever growing prolific music career as it again showcases a masterful performance as she is gracefully joined by ace drummer Hamilton and John Hart on guitar, in which they create a magical and captivating masterpiece. By starting off on the opening track *Blues For Bandit*, the fantastic track set proceed with supercharged skill on 'new' original compositions, such as like *Funky Girl*, *Don't Misunderstood* and the title track, as well as another round of direct takes on classic standards like The Bee Gees' *How Deep Is Your Love*, *Give Me The Simple Life*, *It's Easy To Remember* and Nat King Cole's romantic ballad *L-O-V-E*, which Akiko and the trio performs gracefully with preppy results. So with *Commencement*, Akiko have again displayed her world class artistry on the Hammond B-3 Organ where she uses her powerhouse B-3 organ stylings to significant effect that results in stellar performing, great taste and an impeccable sense of swing, which gives an extra amount of ears to remind ourselves of just how far this great master of the jazz organ had come and to everything we have come to love about the jazz organ tradition, which makes this a timeless classic. ---RH, amazon.com

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