

Johnny Mathis – Live 1983

Written by bluesever

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Side 1:

- 01) *I Believe In Love*
- 02) *Misty*
- 03) *Begin The Beguine*
- 04) *Fly Away*
- 05) *A Certain Smile*
- 06) *Memory*

Side 2:

- 01) *The Twelfth Of Never*
- 02) *Try To Win A Friend*
- 03) *99 Miles From LA*
- 04) *Chances Are*
- 05) *Orange Coloured Sky*
- 06) *When A Child Is Born*

I truly enjoy live albums, sometimes more than studio albums since you're really getting the artist in the raw, with no help from studio assistance, over-dubbing, etc. Artists who can represent their studio work in a live setting and sound as good or better live definitely earn my respect.

Johnny Mathis is without a doubt one of the best examples of this type of performer. Consistency is an understatement with regards to Johnny's delivery. It always sounds effortless for him which speaks to his vocal prowess, experience and comfort with the material.

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Having seen Johnny Mathis perform live several times, I can tell you that even today, he still sounds as smooth and silky as he does in this 1984 recording.

I am in love with his version of Begin the Beguine on this cd. It is truly the highlight of the CD for me. The orchestration is upbeat and Johnny just belts it out. The key change mid-way through the songs takes place as Johnny holds a fantastic note while the orchestra chromatically climbs the scale behind him. It sends chills up my spine.

Johnny's version of Memory on this CD is memorable as well as his version of Didn't We. Also included are many of Johnny's other hits perfectly executed such as 99 Miles From LA, Fly Away, Misty, Chances Are, The Twelfth of Never, etc.

If you own some of Johnny's other Cd's, then the version of Begin the Beguine on this CD is definitely a reason to buy it as I don't think this version is on his CD box set, A Personal Collection. ---MA Reviewer, amazon.com

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