Aretha Franklin - Aretha's Jazz (1984)

Written by bluelover Sunday, 26 August 2018 12:22 -

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1 Ramblin' 3:07 2 Today I Sing The Blues 4:22 3 Pitiful 3:01 4 Crazy He Calls Me 3:24 5 Bring It On Home To Me 3:39 6 Somewhere 6:14 7 Moody's Mood 2:55 8 Just Right Tonight 7:42 Alto Saxophone [Brass Section] – Frank Wess, George Dorsey (tracks: 1 to 5) Baritone Saxophone [Brass Section] – Pepper Adams (tracks: 1 to 5) Drums – Bruno Carr (tracks: 1, 3 to 5) Electric Bass – Ron Carter (tracks: 1, 3 to 5) Electric Piano – Joe Zawinul (tracks: 5) Guitar – Kenny Burrell (tracks: 1, 3 to 5) Organ [Hammond] – Joe Zawinul (tracks: 4) Saxophone, Soloist – David Newman (tracks: 1, 2, 4, 5), King Curtis (tracks: 3) Tenor Saxophone [Brass Section] – King Curtis, Seldon Powell (tracks: 1 to 5) Tenor Saxophone [Brass Section], Flute – David Newman (tracks: 1 to 5) Trombone [Brass Section] – Benny Powell, Jimmy Cleveland, Thomas Mitchell, Urbie Green (tracks: 1 to 5) Trumpet [Brass Section] - Bernie Glow, Ernie Royal, Joe Newman, Richard Williams, Snooky Young (tracks: 1 to 5) Trumpet, Soloist – Joe Newman (tracks: 1 to 5) Drums – Roger Hawkins Electric Bass – Jerry Jemmott, Tommy Cogbill Guitar – Jimmy Johnson Organ [Hammond] – Spooner Oldham Piano – Aretha Franklin, Billy Preston, Junior Mance Alto Saxophone [Solo] – Phil Woods Vocals - Aretha Franklin Arranged By, Conductor - Arif Mardin (tracks: 1 to 4) Arranged By, Conductor – Quincy Jones (tracks: 6 to 8)

A good anthology that covers various album cuts, B-sides, and assorted material in a jazz vein that Aretha cut for Columbia. It's great to hear her underrated piano playing given some more space, and Columbia should really reissue her Dinah Washington tribute album, from which they pulled a couple of these songs. Aretha wasn't a jazz vocalist from the standpoint of approach or inspiration, but she really can sing anything and showed it on these cuts, even if they weren't, for the most part, hits. --Ron Wynn, AllMusic Review

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