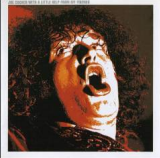


Joe Cocker - With A Little Help From My Friends (1969)

Written by bluelover

Tuesday, 23 December 2014 17:34 - Last Updated Monday, 20 February 2017 21:45

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Side one 1 "Feeling Alright" (Dave Mason) – 4:10 2 "Bye Bye Blackbird" (Ray Henderson, Mort Dixon) – 3:27 3 "Change in Louise" (Joe Cocker, Chris Stainton) – 3:22 4 "Marjorine" (Joe Cocker, Chris Stainton) – 2:38 5 "Just Like a Woman" (Bob Dylan) – 5:17
Side two

6 "Do I Still Figure in Your Life?" (Pete Dello) – 3:59 7 "Sandpaper Cadillac" (Joe Cocker, Chris Stainton) – 3:16 8 "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood" (Gloria Caldwell, Sol Marcus, Bennie Benjamin) – 4:41 9 "With a Little Help from My Friends" (John Lennon, Paul McCartney) – 5:11 10 "I Shall Be Released" (Bob Dylan) – 4:35

Bonus tracks (1999 reissue)

11 "The New Age of Lily" (Joe Cocker, Chris Stainton) – 2:15 12 "Something's Coming On" (Joe Cocker, Chris Stainton) – 2:15

Joe Cocker: vocals David Cohen: guitar (track 1) Tony Visconti: guitar (track 2)
Jimmy Page: guitar (tracks 2, 4, 5, 7 & 9) Henry McCullough: guitar (tracks 3, 6, 8 & 10)
Albert Lee: guitar (track 4) Chris Stainton: piano (tracks 2, 3, 4 & 7), organ (tracks 2 & 7),
bass guitar (tracks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 & 10) Tommy Eyre: piano (track 5), organ (tracks 8 & 9)
Artie Butler: piano (track 1) Matthew Fisher: organ (track 5) Stevie Winwood: organ
(tracks 6 & 10) Carol Kaye: bass guitar (track 1) Paul Humphrey: drums (track 1) Clem
Cattini: drums (tracks 2, 4 & 7) Mike Kellie: drums (tracks 3, 6 & 10) B.J. Wilson: drums
(tracks 5 & 9) Kenny: drums (track 8) Laudir: tumba, maracas (track 1) Brenda
Holloway: backing vocals (track 1) Patrice Holloway: backing vocals (track 1) Merry
Clayton: backing vocals (track 1) Madeline Bell: backing vocals (tracks 2, 6 & 9) Rosetta
Hightower: backing vocals (tracks 2 & 9) Sue Wheetman: backing vocals (tracks 3, 6, 9 &
10) Sunny Wheetman: Backing Vocals (Tracks 3, 6, 9 & 10)

Joe Cocker's debut album holds up extraordinarily well across four decades, the singer's performance bolstered by some very sharp playing, not only by his established sideman/collaborator Chris Stainton, but also some top-notch session musicians, among them drummer Clem Cattini, Steve Winwood on organ, and guitarists Jimmy Page and Albert Lee, all sitting in. It's Cocker's voice, a soulful rasp of an instrument backed up by Madeline Bell, Sunny Wheetman and Rossetta Hightower that carries this album and makes "Change in Louise,"

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"Feeling Alright," "Just Like a Woman," "I Shall Be Released," and even "Bye Bye Blackbird" into profound listening experiences. But the surprises in the arrangements, tempo, and approaches taken help make this an exceptional album. Tracks like "Just Like a Woman," with its soaring gospel organ above a lean textured acoustic and light electric accompaniment, and the guitar-dominated rendition of "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood" -- the formal debut of the Grease Band on record -- all help make this an exceptional listening experience. The 1999 A&M reissue not only includes new notes and audiophile-quality sound, but also a pair of bonus tracks, the previously unanthologized B-sides "The New Age of Lily" and "Something Coming On," deserved better than the obscurity in which they previously dwelt. ---Bruce Eder, Rovi

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