Joe Cocker - Joe Cocker! (1969)



"Dear Landlord" (Bob Dylan) – 3:23 2. "Bird on the Wire" (Leonard Cohen) – 4:30 3. "Lawdy Miss Clawdy" (Lloyd Price) – 2:15 4. "She Came in Through the Bathroom Window" (John Lennon, Paul McCartney) – 2:37 5. "Hitchcock Railway" (Don Dunn, Tony McCashen) "That's Your Business Now" (Joe Cocker, Chris Stainton) – 2:56 7. *-4:41 6.* (George Harrison) – 3:32 8. "Delta Lady" (Leon Russell) – 2:51 9. "Hello, Little Friend" "Darling Be Home Soon" (John Sebastian) – 4:49 + 11. "The New (Leon Russell) - 3:52 10. Age of Lily" (Joe Cocker, Chris Stainton) - 2:15 12. "Somethings Coming On" (Joe Cocker, "She's Good To Me" (Joe Cocker, Chris Stainton) – 2:56 Chris Stainton) - 2:17 13 Cocker - vocals Chris Stainton - piano, organ, guitar Alan Spenner - bass Bruce Rowland drums Henry McCullough - guitar George Harrison - rhythm guitar[5] Leon Russell - piano, organ, guitar Milt Holland - percussion Sneaky Pete Kleinow - guitar Clarence White - guitar Paul Humphries - drums Merry Clayton, Bonnie Bramlett, Rita Coolidge, Patrice Holloway, Sherlie Matthews - background vocals

Joe Cocker's first three A&M albums form the bedrock of a career that spans over three decades. While Cocker certainly wasn't always in top form during this stretch -- thanks to alcohol problems and guestionable comeback moves in the '80s and '90s -- his early records did inform the classic pub rock sound later credited to proto-punk figures like Graham Parker and Brinsley Schwarz. On those early records, Cocker mixed elements of late-'60s English blues revival recordings (John Mayall, et al.) with the more contemporary sounds of soul and pop; a sound fused in no small part by producer and arranger Leon Russell, whose gumbo mix figures prominently on this eponymous release and the infamous Mad Dogs & Englishmen live set. Russell's sophisticated swamp blues aesthetic is felt directly with versions of his gospel ballad "Hello, Little Friend" and Beatles-inspired bit of New Orleans pop -- and one of Cocker's biggest hits -- "Delta Lady." Following up on the huge success of an earlier cover of "With a Little Help From My Friends," Cocker mines more Beatles gold with very respectable renditions of "She Came in Through the Bathroom Window" and "Something." And rounding out this impressive set are equally astute takes on Dylan's "Dear Landlord," Leonard Cohen's "Bird on the Wire," and John Sebastian's "Darling Be Home Soon." Throughout, Cocker gets superb support from his regular backing group of the time, the Grease Band. A fine introduction to the

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singer's classic, late-'60s and early-'70s period. ---Stephen Cook, Rovi

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