

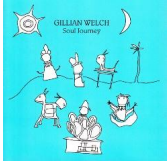
## Gillian Welch □ – Soul Journey (2003)

Written by bluelover

Sunday, 11 November 2018 10:21 -

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## Gillian Welch □ – Soul Journey (2003)



1 *Look At Miss Ohio* 4:16 2 *Make Me A Pallet On Your Floor* 2:45 3 *Wayside / Back In Time* 3:28 4 *I Had A Real Good Mother And Father* 3:14 5 *One Monkey* 5:36 6 *No One Knows My Name* 3:16 7 *Lowlands* 3:19 8 *One Little Song* 3:12 9 *I Made A Lovers Prayer* 5:03 10 *Wrecking Ball* 4:56 Acoustic Guitar – Mark Ambrose Bass – Jim Boquist, Matt Andrews (7) Fiddle – Ketcham Secor Performer [All Else] – David Rawlings, Gillian Welch Resonator Guitar [Dobro] – Greg Leisz Vocals, Guitar – Gillian Welch

Gillian Welch and David Rawlings may, in fact, shock and appall folk purists with their fourth album, *Soul Journey*. "Are those drums?" "Is that an organ?" "Wait a minute, is that an electric bass?!?" The album uses these musical elements to drive home a living-room, lazy-summertime jam-session feel that hasn't really shown itself on Welch's previous releases. The album's opener, "Look at Miss Ohio," evolves into her toughest rocker since "Pass You By" on her debut, *Revival*, and the whole album culminates in the relative cacophony of "Wrecking Ball," a drunked-up barroom stumble highlighted by Ketcham Secor's loping fiddle lines and Rawlings' fuzzed-out guitar solo. Between these bookends is a mixed bag of traditional folk songs ("Make Me a Pallet on Your Floor," "I Had a Real Good Mother and Father"), loose blues phrasing ("Lowlands," "No One Knows My Name"), and a number of trademark Welch/Rawlings near-whispered murder ballads and orphan love songs. The thing that shines through most clearly is that the group had a lot of fun making *Soul Journey*, but that doesn't necessarily translate into a terrific album. Aside from a handful of real solid honest-to-gosh gems, the whole album feels a little too casual and off-the-cuff to stand on equal footing with her other recordings. The choruses often become just repeated phrases over and over again ("Lowlands," "No One Knows My Name," "I Made a Lovers Prayer," and the unfortunate "One Monkey"), and the songwriting seems less developed, as if the initial construction of the song has taken a back seat to the sheer enjoyment of performing it. That being said, it is a wonderful, dusty summertime front-porch album, full of whiskey drawls and sly smiles, floorboard stomps and screen-door creeks. While it does not exactly meet the impeccable standards that her previous three releases set, it is still a fine addition to her discography and well worth listening to all summer long. ---Zac Johnson, AllMusic Review

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