

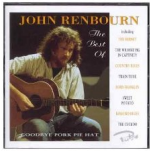
## John Renbourn-The Best Of John Renbourn (1996)

Written by bluelover

Saturday, 01 April 2017 08:33 -

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### John Renbourn-The Best Of John Renbourn (1996)



1. *Goodbye Pork Pie Hat*-3:53 2. *The Hermit*-03:20 3. *White House Blues*-3:37 4. *The Wildest Pig in from Captivity*-02:05 5. *Country Blues*-3:38 6. *Train Tune*-02:39 7. *Can't Keep From Crying*-2:04 8. *After the Dance*-2:27 9. *Lord Franklin*-03:25 10. *Sweet Potato*-03:21 11. *Beth's Blues*-2:08 pm 12. *Winter Is Gone*-2:17 13. *I Know My Babe*-3:30 14. *Kokomo Blues* "-3:55 15. *The Cuckoo*-03:59 16. *Faro and Rag*-2:41 17. *Will the Circle Be Unbroken?* -04:07 18. *Nobody's Fault But Mine* "-1:58 19. *Sally Go Round the Roses*-3:38 20. *Debbie Anne*-1:42 21. *Piano Tune*-01:40 22. *So Clear*-4:52      Compilation covering John Renbourn's solo work, works with Pentangle and collaborations with Bert Jansch.

This compilation provides an excellent overview of John Renbourn's recording career up to *The Hermit* (1976), showcasing his ability to balance tradition and studied technique with an innovative, adventurous sensibility. Jesse Fuller, Big Bill Broonzy, and Ramblin' Jack Elliot were among Renbourn's earliest muses, inspiring folk-blues explorations like the Appalachian tune "Winter Is Gone," from his 1965 self-titled solo debut. In addition to American music, Renbourn also drew on the sounds of Alexis Korner and Davey Graham; their influence began to manifest itself particularly on his 1966 record with Bert Jansch, *Bert and John*, which blended folk and blues with jazz. The guitar duets from that release appearing on the present compilation nicely capture what critics called Renbourn and Jansch's "folk Baroque" sound. The collaboration with Jansch led to the formation of the Pentangle and Renbourn's *Another Monday* (1966) featured his first recordings with that band's eventual singer, Jacqui McShee; of these, "Can't Keep From Crying" is included here. The medieval and Renaissance orientation of 1968's *Sir John Alot of Merrie Englandes Musyk Thyng and Ye Grene Knyghte* proved influential among new age Celtic musicians; however, that album is represented by a more bluesy track featuring African percussion, "Sweet Potato." Renbourn's sitar playing brings non-western nuances also to "The Cuckoo," from *Faro Annie* (1971). That record saw him revisit his folk-blues roots, re-enlisting an old collaborator, American gospel singer Dorris Henderson, whose vocal contributions help make "White House Blues" one of this collection's standouts. As a selection of work from 1965 to 1976, which also includes several Pentangle tracks, *The Best of John Renbourn* offers a solid introduction to his music. Above all, it attests to Renbourn's range as a writer and a performer, making the inadequacy of the catchall tag "folk guitarist" very apparent. ---Wilson Neate,

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