

## Jefferson Airplane – Jefferson Airplane Takes Off (1966)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Blues From An Airplane (Marty Balin/Alex Spence) - 2:10*
02. *Let Me In (Balin/Paul Kantner) - 2:55 (lead vocals - Paul Kantner)*
03. *Bringing Me Down (Balin/Kantner) - 2:21*
04. *It's No Secret (Balin) - 2:36*
05. *Tobacco Road (John D.Loudermilk) - 3:27*
06. *Come Up The Years (Balin/Kantner) - 2:29*
07. *Run Around (Balin/Kantner) - 2:36 (lead vocals - Paul Kantner)*
08. *Let's Get Together (Chet Powers) - 3:32 (lead vocals - Paul Kantner, Signe Toly Anderson, Marty Balin)*
09. *Don't Slip Away (Balin/Spence) - 2:31*
10. *Chauffeur Blues (Lester Melrose) - 2:25 (lead vocals - Signe Toly Anderson)*
11. *And I Like It (Balin/Jorma Kaukonen) - 3:15*

### Personnel:

- Marty Balin (Martyn Jerel Buchwald) – vocals, rhythm guitar
- Signe Toly Anderson – female vocals, percussion
- Jorma Ludwik Kaukonen Jr. – lead guitar
- Paul Lorin Kantner – rhythm guitar, vocals
- John William "Jack" Casady – bass
- Alexander Lee "Skip" Spence drums

The debut Jefferson Airplane album was dominated by singer Marty Balin, who wrote or co-wrote all the original material and sang most of the lead vocals in his heartbreaking tenor with Paul Kantner and Signe Anderson providing harmonies and backup. (Anderson's lead vocal on "Chauffeur Blues" indicated she was at least the equal of her successor, Grace Slick, as a belter.) The music consisted mostly of folk-rock love songs, the most memorable of which were "It's No Secret" and "Come up the Years." (There was also a striking version of Dino Valente's "Get Together" recorded years before the Youngbloods' hit version.) Jorma Kaukonen

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already displayed a talent for mixing country, folk, and blues riffs in a rock context, and Jack Casady already had a distinctive bass sound. But the Airplane of Balin-Kantner-Kaukonen-Anderson-Casady-Spence is to be distinguished from the Balin-Kantner-Kaukonen-Casady-Slick-Dryden version of the band that would emerge on record five months later chiefly by Balin's dominance. Later, Grace Slick would become the group's vocal and visual focal point. On Jefferson Airplane Takes Off, the Airplane was Balin's group. (Jefferson Airplane Takes Off was released as RCA 3584 on August 15, 1966. It was reissued as RCA 66797 on January 30, 1996, as a CD that contained both the stereo and mono versions, and that added back the track "Runnin' 'Round This World," which had been deleted from all but initial copies due to the sexual and perceived drug references of the line "The nights I've spent with you have been fantastic trips." But the included version still eliminated the word "trips.") --- William Ruhlmann, allmusic.com

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