

Herman's Hermits - Herman's Hermits (1965)

Written by bluesever

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1 Heartbeat 2 Travellin 'Light 3 I'll Never Dance Again 4 Walkin' With My Angel 5 Dream On 6 I Wonder 7 For Your Love 8 Don't Try To Hurt Me 9 Tell Me Baby 10 I'm Henry The Eighth I Am 11 The End Of The World 12 Mrs. Brown, You've Got A Lovely Daughter Peter Noone – vocals Derek Leckenby – lead guitar Keith Hopwood – rhythm guitar Karl Green – bass Barry Whitwam – drums

The group's debut British album was actually issued six months later than its American counterpart, and two months after its second American album, the LP being treated as far more important in the United States than in England. The contents are actually fairly close to the U.S.-issued *Their Second Album! Herman's Hermits on Tour*, with a couple of important differences. Among the tracks unique to this album, the Richard/Marvin ballad "I Wonder" is pretty dispensable, but interspersed with aching beautiful ballads are the group's attempts at somewhat harder sounds on numbers like Carole King and Gerry Goffin's "Walkin' With My Angel" and more basic, slightly edgier rock ballads such as "Dream On" and their cover of Graham Gouldman's "For Your Love." The latter is decent, and lively enough, but the Yardbirds' version, lightweight as it may have seemed next to their blues sides, is so deeply soulful that it completely eclipses this rendition. Spiced with Keith Hopwood's catchy "Don't Try to Hurt Me" and "Tell Me Baby" (which appear on both albums, a testimony to Hopwood's songwriting ability) and ubiquitous fare such as "Mrs. Brown You've Got a Lovely Daughter," the result is a pleasantly upbeat and substantial album by a highly underrated group. ---Bruce Eder, AllMusic Review

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