

Van Morrison – His Band And The Street Choir (1970)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Domino* – 3:07 02. *Crazy Face* – 2:55 03. *Give Me A Kiss (Just One Sweet Kiss)* – 2:30
[play](#) 04. *I've Been Working* – 3:25 05. *Call Me Up In Dreamland* – 3:51 06. *I'll Be Your
Lover, Too* – 3:53 07. *Blue Money* – 3:43 08. *Virgo Clowns* – 4:09 09. *Gypsy Queen* – 3:15
[play](#) 10. *Sweet Jannie* – 2:09 11. *If I Ever Needed Someone* – 3:46 12. *Street Choir*
– 4:49

Personnel: - Van Morrison – guitar, harmonica, tenor saxophone, vocals, producer - Alan Hand – piano, Hammond organ, celeste - Keith Johnson – trumpet, Hammond organ - John Klingberg – bass - John Platania – electric & acoustic guitars, mandolin - Jack Schroer – soprano, alto & baritone saxophones, piano - Dahaud Shaar (David Shaw) – drums, percussion, bass clarinet, backing vocals - Judy Clay, Emily Houston, Jackie Verdell - backing vocals (11) The Street Choir: Larry Goldsmith, Janet Planet, Andrew Robinson, Ellen Schroer, Dahaud Shaar (David Shaw), Martha Velez

His Band and the Street Choir appeared at a time--1970--when Van Morrison was building on the great critical successes of *Astral Weeks* and *Moondance*. His third Warner Bros. album contains a number of radio-friendly tracks clearly aimed at the singles market and few clues of the serious, brooding melancholy of *Astral Weeks*. Kicking off with the jaunty "Domino," the album is generally dominated by uptempo swingers such as "Call Me Up in Dreamland," "Give Me a Kiss," and "Blue Money." The cover photography and liner notes by then wife Janet Planet reveal a smiling Morrison and hint at a newfound personal contentment. This mood did not last long after Van left the artists' community of Woodstock. But even here, in "I'll Be Your Lover Too" and "Crazy Face," there are moments that are essential listening for fans of his sullen splendor and mysticism. ---Rob Stewart

After the brilliant one-two punch of *Astral Weeks* and *Moondance*, His Band and the Street

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Choir brings Van Morrison back down to earth, both literally and figuratively. While neither as innovative nor as edgy as its predecessors, His Band and the Street Choir also lacks their overt mysticism; at heart, the album is simply Morrison's valentine to the R&B that inspired him, resulting in the muscular and joyous tribute "Domino" as well as the bouncy "Blue Money" and "Call Me Up in Dreamland." --- Jason Ankeny, allmusic.com

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