

Status Quo – Heavy Traffic (2002)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 21 March 2011 19:38 - Last Updated Thursday, 17 January 2019 20:58

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1. *Blues and Rhythm (Rossi/Bown)* 4:29
2. *All Stand Up (Never Say Never) (Rossi/Young)* 4:08
3. *The Oriental (Rossi/Edwards)* 4:29
4. *Creepin' Up On You (Parfitt/Edwards)* 5:01
5. *Heavy Traffic (Rossi/Young/Edwards)* 4:23 [play](#)
6. *Solid Gold (Rossi/Young)* 4:14
7. *Green (Bown)* 3:35
8. *Jam Side Down (Britten/Dore)* 3:27
9. *Diggin' Burt Bacharach (Rossi/Young)* 2:32
10. *Do It Again (Edwards/Bown)* 3:40 [play](#)
11. *Another Day (Rossi/Young)* 3:47
12. *I Don't Remember Anymore (Bown)* 3:38
13. *Rhythm of Life (Rossi/Young)* 5:05

Personnel:

- * Francis Rossi - Vocals & lead guitar
- * Rick Parfitt - Vocals & guitar
- * John Edwards - Bass
- * Andy Bown - Keyboards
- * Matt Letley - Drums

Although Status Quo's commercial status has never been in doubt, few long-time fans have truly rated their '80s-'90s era output alongside the bedazzling blues boogie classics that they unleashed earlier in their lifespan -- that peerless run of albums that stretched between Piledriver and Rockin' All Over the World. Too many clichés, too much fuss, too little heads-down, no-nonsense rock & roll. If you gave up on Quo any time in the past 20 years, you're not alone. But, if you return to the fold for Heavy Traffic, you won't be alone either.

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Quite simply, Heavy Traffic is Quo's finest studio album since Blue for You -- bar none. Recorded with all five bandmembers simply standing together in the studio and playing -- exactly like they used to work, before producers and computers and technology came along -- it offers nothing more or less than Quo ever should have represented. Crunchy rhythms, driving tempos, a blue-collar barroom barrage that doesn't even let up for the ballads -- because there aren't any!

Neither are there any cover versions and, if a few of the band's own old ghosts do filter through, that's only to be expected; there are, after all, only so many things you can do with the trademark Quo sound. So "Creepin' Up on You" has a hint of "Roll Over Lay Down" playing around its fringes, and "All Stand Up" is a bit like "Down Down." One might also detect a distinctly Free-esque edge to "Rhythm of Life," but that's no bad thing either. Indeed, it serves only to remind us just how closely affiliated the two bands were during their early-'70s prime -- and this is the sound of Quo re-establishing their half of the balance. Beyond the realm of any expectation -- a masterpiece! ---Dave Thompson, AllMusic Review

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