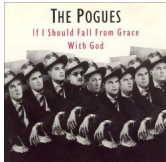


The Pogues - If I Should Fall From Grace With God (1988/2004)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 28 February 2013 17:36 - Last Updated Tuesday, 06 November 2018 19:59

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1 *If I Should Fall From Grace With God* 2:21 2 *Turkish Song Of The Damned* 3:27 3 *Bottle Of Smoke* 2:47 4 *Fairytale Of New York* 4:36 5 *Metropolis* 2:50 6 *Thousands Are Sailing* 5:28 7 *Fiesta* 4:13 8 *Medley: The Recruiting Sergeant / The Rocky Road To Dublin / The Galway Races* 4:01 9 *Streets Of Sorrow / Birmingham Six* 4:39 10 *Lullaby Of London* 3:31 11 *Sit Down By The Fire* 2:18 12 *The Broad Majestic Shannon* 2:52 13 *Worms* 1:05 14 *The Battle March (Medley)* 4:10 15 *The Irish Rover* 4:07 16 *Mountain Dew* 2:19 17 *Shanne Bradley* 3:41 18 *Sketches Of Spain* 2:14 19 *South Australia* 3:27 Personnel: Shane MacGowan – vocals, guitar Spider Stacy – tin whistle, vocals James Fearnley – accordion, piano, mandolin, dulcimer, guitar, cello, percussion Jem Finer – banjo, saxophone Andrew Ranken – drums, vocals Philip Chevron – guitar, mandolin Darryl Hunt – bass, percussion, vocals Terry Woods – cittern lute, concertina, strings, banjo, dulcimer, guitar, vocals Ron Kavana – banjo, spoons, mandolin Kirsty MacColl – vocals on "Fairytale Of New York" Siobhan Sheahan – harp Brian Clarke – alto saxophone Joe Cashman – tenor saxophone Paul Taylor – trombone Chris Lee – trumpet Eli Thompson – trumpet

If Rum Sodomy & the Lash captured the Pogues on plastic in all their rough-and-tumble glory, *If I Should Fall from Grace with God* proved they could learn the rudiments of proper record making and still come up with an album that captured all the sharp edges of their musical personality. Producer Steve Lillywhite imposed a more disciplined approach in the studio than Elvis Costello had, but he had the good sense not to squeeze the life out of the band in the process; as a result, the Pogues sound tighter and more precise than ever, while still summoning up the glorious howling fury that made Rum Sodomy & the Lash so powerful. And Shane MacGowan continued to grow as a songwriter, as his lyrics and melodies captured with brilliant detail his obsession with the finer points of Anglo-Irish culture. "Fairytale of New York," a glorious sweet-and-sour duet with Kirsty MacColl, and "The Broad Majestic Shannon" were subtle in a way many of his previous work was not, "Birmingham Six" found him addressing political issues for the first time (and with all the expected venom), and "Fiesta" and "Turkish Song of the Damned" found him adding (respectively) faux-Spanish and Middle Eastern flavors into the Pogues' heady mix. And if you want to hear the Pogues blaze through some fast ones,

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"Bottle of Smoke" and the title song find them doing just what they've always done best. Brilliantly mixing passion, street smarts, and musical ambition, If I Should Fall from Grace with God is the best album the Pogues would ever make. ---Mark Deming, allmusic

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