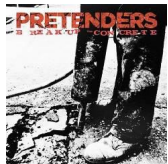


Pretenders - Break Up The Concrete (2008)

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 24 March 2015 16:39 - Last Updated Monday, 12 November 2018 14:30

Pretenders - Break Up The Concrete (2008)



1 *Boots Of Chinese Plastic* 2:31 2 *The Nothing Maker* 3:58 3 *Don't Lose Faith In Me* 2:45
4 *Don't Cut Your Hair* 2:14 5 *Love A Mystery* 3:02 6 *The Last Ride* 3:41 7 *Almost Perfect*
4:48 8 *You Didn't Have To* 3:10 9 *Rosalee* 4:15 10 *Break Up The Concrete* 2:41 11 *One
Thing Never Changed* 3:44 Jim Keltner – drums, background vocals Chrissie Hynde –
rhythm guitar, vocals Eric Heywood – pedal steel guitar, background vocals James
Walbourne – guitar, piano, accordion, background vocals Nick Wilkinson – bass guitar,
background vocals

Break Up the Concrete is the first Pretenders album since 1990s *Packed!* where Chrissie Hynde wrote almost every song on the album on her own, but unlike the generally listless *Packed!*, *Break Up the Concrete* is an effective rebirth for Hynde, a reconnection to her roots undoubtedly effected by her return to her native Ohio. This may be a stripped-down record carrying echoes of the Pretenders past, but this is hardly a conscious re-creation of the group's first two records, as it lacks any of the stylish guitar colorings of James Honeyman-Scott, and the group's early hard rock swagger has been swapped out for a frenetic rockabilly bop, as infectious on the barrel-headed boogie "Don't Cut Your Hair" and Bo Diddley romp of the title track as it is on the ingenious Dylan send-up "Boots of Chinese Plastic." Hynde's revived rockabilly roll finds a comfortable pairing in the easy county-rock vibe of her ballads, of which there are far more of than there are rockers here. This emphasis on rockabilly and country-rock gives *Break Up the Concrete* a bit of an Americana feel -- something enhanced by the gently murmuring accordion on "You Didn't Have To," which otherwise is a cousin to the sighing pop of "Kid" -- but this doesn't necessarily feel like a departure for Hynde: it just feels like a lively, deeply felt Pretenders album, one that has better songs and better performances than usual. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, allmusic.com

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