

Peter Frampton – Acoustic Classics (2016)

Written by bluesever (Bogdan Marszałkowski)

Tuesday, 06 April 2021 09:42 -

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1 *Fig Tree Bay* 3:50 2 *Wind Of Change* 3:05 3 *All I Want To Be (Is By Your Side)* 4:33 4 *Show Me The Way* 4:05 5 *Lines On My Face* 5:24 6 *Sail Away* 4:45 7 *Baby, I Love Your Way* 5:09 8 *All Down To Me (Guitar – Gordon Kennedy)* 4:12 9 *Penny For Your Thoughts* 1:41 10 *Do You Feel Like I Do* 6:13 11 *I'm In You* 4:10 Guitar, Acoustic Bass [Guitar], Vocals – Peter Frampton

The acoustic setting emphasizes Peter's tastily understated highly rhythmic guitar playing and his still expressive lilting voice to the utmost degree. In the absence of any studio gimmickry or trendy effects, it suddenly becomes as resoundingly clear as the chiming ring of Peter's acoustic guitars that truly great music is not reliant on flavor of the month production technologies or stylistic fads. The minimal natural setting of *Acoustic Classics* also renders Peter's songs as timeless - sounding as good or better than they did in their original forms.

This record could have come out in the '70s and been the perfect accompaniment to many a wine-enhanced fireside, campfire or beachfront rendezvous. It can just as effectively serve the same function today in 2016. Speaking of 2016, Peter sounds as good as he ever did. His voice has a mellower, warmth to it which suits the acoustic nature of this record. The stripped-down simplicity and beauty of this album only serve to make it all the more compelling in the all-too-often noisy cookie cutter din of today's "pop" music. I'm sure glad that the classic musicians are still around to show the next generation of musicians what GREAT music SHOULD sound like! ---RH Loren, allmusic.com

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Any new album from UK rocker Frampton is bound to generate interest. A former Grammy award winner for his 2006 album Fingerprints, Frampton kicked off his career way back in England as a young 16-year-old frontman with the Herd before moving on and up with arguably one of the first 'Supergroups,' Humble Pie, where he shared the stage with his old buddy Steve Marriott. As early as 1976, he captured the USA with the multi-million selling Frampton Comes Alive. While his career has been a roller-coaster ride, with ups and downs aplenty, he has also managed to fit in sessions playing and touring with David Bowie, Bill Wyman and Ringo Starr, confirming his place as a major-league guitarist with those in the know.

In many ways this offering is perfect for time-travellers. It's firmly rooted in Frampton's past with a delightfully hippy, trippy sort of feel at times, yet a rewarding freshness with the stripped-down covers of many of his old hits including "Show Me The Way", "Lines On My Face" and a track that alone would make this worth buying, "Baby, I Love Your Way," here pared-down and played with passion and beauty by a quality fretworker.

Older guys amongst us will be irresistibly sucked in here, nodding, bopping and singing along to a remarkable back-catalogue that inevitably raises the thought of how surprisingly overlooked Frampton is and just how significantly prolific he was back in the day. While Acoustic Classics is unlikely to become a "Frampton Unplugged," challenging Clapton's immense success with the format, it remains a genuine delight and a truly wonderful release. ---Iain Patience, elmoremagazine.com

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