

Aerosmith - Get Your Wings (1974)

Written by bluesever
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01. Same Old Song and Dance 02. Lord of the Thighs 03. Spaced 04. Woman of the World 05. S.O.S. (Too Bad) 06. Train Kept A-Rollin' 07. Seasons of Wither 08. Pandora's Box
Michael Brecker - Sax (Tenor) Randy Brecker - Trumpet Stan Bronstein - Sax (Baritone) Ray Colcord - Keyboards, Producer Tom Hamilton - Bass (Electric), Bass Instrument Joey Kramer - Drums, Percussion, Vocals Jon Pearson - Trombone Joe Perry - Guitars, Guitar (12 String), Percussion, Slide Guitar, Vocals Steven Tyler - Bass, Guitar (Acoustic), Harmonica, Keyboards, Percussion, Piano, Vocals Brad Whitford - Guitar (Electric)

Often overshadowed by the subsequent twin highlights of *Toys in the Attic* and *Rocks*, Aerosmith's 1974 second album, *Get Your Wings*, is where Aerosmith became Aerosmith -- it's where they teamed up with producer Jack Douglas, it's where they shed much of their influences and developed their own trademark sound, it's where they turned into songwriters, it's where Steven Tyler unveiled his signature obsessions with sex and sleaze. Chief among these attributes may be Douglas, who either helped the band ease into the studio or captured their sound in a way their debut never did. This is a leaner, harder album, bathed in grease and layered in grit, but it's not just down to Douglas. The band itself sounds more distinctive. There are blues in Joe Perry and Joey Kramer's interplay, but this leapfrogs over blues-rock; it turns into slippery hard rock. To be sure, it's still easy to hear the Stones here, but they never really sound Stones; there's almost more of the Yardbirds to the way the group works the riffs, particularly evident on the cover of the early 'Birds classic "The Train Kept a Rollin'." But if the Yardbirds were tight and nervy, Aerosmith is blown out and loose, the sound of excess incarnate -- that is, in every way but the writing itself, which is confident and strong, fueled by Tyler's gonzo sex drive. He is the "Lord of the Thighs," playing that "Same Old Song and Dance," but he also slows down enough for the eerie "Seasons of Wither," a powerful slow-churning ballad whose mastery of atmosphere is a good indication of how far the band has grown. They never attempted anything quite so creepy on their debut, but it isn't just that Aerosmith is trying newer things on *Get Your Wings*, it's that they're doing their bloozy bluster better and bolder, which is what turns this sophomore effort into their first classic. ---

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