Mahalia Jackson - Newport '58 (1958)

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A1 An Evening Prayer 2:30 A2 I'm On My Way 3:00 A3 A City Called Heaven 3:40 A4 It Don't Cost Very Much 3:10 A5 Walk Over God's Heaven 2:55 A6 The Lord's Prayer 3:42 B1 Didn't It Rain 2:35 B2 My God Is Real (Yes, God Is Real) 3:35 B3 He's Got The Whole World In His Hands 2:25 B4 I'm Going To Live The Life I Sing About In My Song 3:48 B5 Joshua Fit The Battle Of Jericho 2:20 B6 His Eye Is On The Sparrow 4:20   Mahalia Jackson - Primary Artist, Vocals   Tommy Bryant - Bass   Mildred Falls - Piano   Lilton Mitchell - Organ

It was 1958 at the Newport Jazz Festival, and the announcer said it all: "Ladies and gentlemen, it is Sunday, and it is time for the World's Greatest Gospel Singer, Miss Mahalia Jackson." And, with that all-too-appropriate introduction, Jackson broke into a stirring rendition of "An Evening Prayer" that set the tone for a classic performance. Over the course of her 45-minute set, she performed pop-tinged numbers ("Didn't It Rain"), a few trad tunes ("I'm Going to Live the Life I Sing About in My Song"), and songs immersed with soul ("Keep Your Hand on the Plow"). On all of these numbers, Jackson's voice rang loud and clear, backed simply by piano and organ. Recorded at a time when her longtime fans were questioning her increasing fame and popularity, the "Queen of Gospel" proved shiningly, once again, that she still knew how to use her God-given gift of voice. --Jason Verlinde, Editorial Reviews

Jackson was at the peak of her career, and she gave a stunning performance at this show, lifting such songs as "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands," "Lord's Prayer," "Evening Prayer," "I'm on My Way," "Walk over God's Heaven" and "His Eye is on the Sparrow" to glorious heights. It's not only one of the great live gospel albums, it's simply one of the great gospel albums. ---Leo Stanley, AllMusic Review
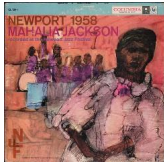
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