## Elton John – Empty Sky (1969)



- 01. Empty Sky 8:26
- 02. Val-Hala 4:06
- 03. Western Ford Gateway 3:12
- 04. Hymn 2000 4:25
- 05. Lady What's Tomorrow 3:06
- 06. Sails 3:38
- 07. The Scaffold 3:12
- 08. Skyline Pigeon 3:32
- 09. Gulliver/Hay Chewed/Reprise 6:58

## Personnel:

- Elton John piano, organ, electric piano, harpsichord, vocals
- Caleb Quaye electric and acoustic guitars, conga drums
- Tony Murray bass
- Roger Pope drums, percussion
- Don Fay tenor saxophone, flute
- Graham Vickery harmonica
- Nigel Olsson drums (05)
- Steve Brown producer

All songs written by Elton John and Bernie Taupin.

Although he had made a number of re-recordings of popular songs for a budget record label in the late '60s, Empty Sky was the first true solo album Elton John recorded after leaving Bluesology; it also marked the beginning of his long and fruitful collaboration with lyricist Bernie Taupin. Empty Sky is quite indicative of the post-Sgt. Pepper's era. With its ambitious arrangements and lyrics, it's clear that John and Taupin intended the album to be a major statement. Though it shows some signs of John's R&B roots, most of the album alternates

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between vaguely psychedelic rock and Taupin and John's burgeoning pop songcraft, capped off by a bizarre reprise of brief moments of all of the songs on the record. There aren't any forgotten gems on Empty Sky, but it does suggest John's potential. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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