Roy Orbison - The Very Best Of (1997)



A1 Only The Lonely (Knows The Way I Feel) 2:26 A2 Leah 2:37 A3 In Dreams 2:37 A4 Uptown 2:08 A5 It's Over 2:47 A6 Crying 2:43 A7 Dream Baby (How Long Must I Dream) 2:36 A8 Blue Angel 2:44 A9 Working For The Man 2:25 A10 Candy Man 2:42 B1 Running Scared 2:10 B2 Falling 2:22 B3 Love Hurts 2:26 B4 Shahadararoba 2:36 B5 I'm Hurtin' 2:43 B6 Mean Woman Blues 2:23 B7 Pretty Paper 2:52 B8 The Crowd 2:20 B9 Blue Bayou 2:29 B10 Oh Pretty Woman 2:55

The listener is immediately convinced, from the opening a cappella bits of "Only the Lonely," that no one conveys pain and longing more sublimely or succinctly than Roy Orbison. But his songs are also masterpieces of production: so technically precise that his deceptively simple tunes and lush melodies flow even more smoothly behind his desperate baritone croon and quivering falsetto. This collection captures that astounding fidelity and corrals many of the Orb's most memorable works. The DCC series has been discontinued, as even the most ardent audiophile couldn't distinguish between the sound of its 24-karat gold CD and the standard run-of-the-mill store copy. The hefty price tag naturally contributed to its extinction as well. So hold out for the more economic, standard version. But don't attempt to live without an Orbison collection in your possession; such a life would be as bittersweet and tragic as "Crying" or "In Dreams," but lacking the rewards of listening to one of rock's truly heroic geniuses. ---Doug Stone, AllMusic Review

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