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Tom Waits – The Heart Of Saturday Night (1974)



01 - New Coat Of Paint 02 - San Diego Serenade 03 - Semi Suite 04 - Shiver Me Timbers 05 - Diamonds On My Windshield 06 - (Looking For) The Heart Of Saturday Night 07 - Fumblin' With The Blues 08 - Please Call Me, Baby 09 - Depot, Depot 10 - Drunk On The Moon 11 - The Ghosts Of Saturday Night (After Hours At ...) Gene Cipriano Clarinet Bones Howe Percussion, Producer Jim Hughart Bass Shelly Manne Drums Jack Sheldon Trumpet Frank Vicari Sax (Tenor) Tom Waits Composer, Guitar, Piano, Vocals

If Closing Time, Tom Waits' debut album, consisted of love songs set in a late-night world of bars and neon signs, its follow-up, The Heart of Saturday Night, largely dispenses with the romance in favor of poetic depictions of the same setting. On "Diamonds on My Windshield" and "The Ghosts of Saturday Night," Waits doesn't even sing, instead reciting his verse rhythmically against bass and drums like a Beat hipster. Musically, the album contains the same mixture of folk, blues, and jazz as its predecessor, with producer Bones Howe occasionally bringing in an orchestra to underscore the loping melodies. Waits' songs are sometimes sketchier in addition to being more impersonal, but "(Looking For) The Heart of Saturday Night" and "Semi Suite" are the equal of anything on Closing Time. Still, with lines such as "...the clouds are like headlines/Upon a new front page sky" and references to "a 24-hour moon" and "champagne stars," Waits' imagery is beginning to get florid, and in material this stylized, the danger of self-parody is always present. ---William Ruhlmann, AllMusic Review

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