Platters - The Singles+ (2003)



CD 1 01. Only You (And You Alone) 02. The Great Pretender 03. I'm Just A Dancing Partner 04. (You've Got) The Magic Touch 05. My Prayer 06. Heaven On Earth 07. You'll Never Never Know 08. It Isn't Right 09. On My Word Of Honour 10. One In A Million 11. I'm Sorry 12. He's Mine 13. My Dream 14. Only Because 15. Helpless 16. Twilight Time 17. You're Making A Mistake 18. I Wish 19. Smoke Gets in Your Eyes 20. Enchanted 21. Remember When 22. Where 23. Wish It Were Me 24. Harbor Lights 25. Sleepy Lagoon CD 2

01. Ebb Tide 02. Red Sails In The Sunset 03. To Each His Own 04. If I Didn't Care 05. Trees 06. I'll Never Smile Again 07. It's Magic 08. Once In A While 09. Strangers 10. Viva Ju Juy 11. Java Jive 12. Sincerely 13. Love Me Tender 14. I Love You 1000 Times 15. I'll Be Home 16. With This Ring 17. Washed Ashore 18. On Top Of My Mind 19. Sweet Sweet Lovin' 20. Love Must Go On 21. So Many Tears 22. Hard To Get A Thing Called Love 23. Fear Of Losing You

This is a fine two-disc anthology of the Platters which manages to combine both the classic early hits ("Only You," "The Great Pretender," "Twilight Time," "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes") when the group was led by Tony Williams' sweet tenor, and the later uptown soul hits ("I Love You 1000 Times," "With This Ring," "Washed Ashore") that featured the spirited vocals of Sonny Turner. The result is a nearly seamless overview of this important group's history.
---Steve Leggett, AllMusic Review

The Platters were one of the top vocal groups of the Fifties, delivering smooth, stylized renditions of pop standards. Like the Ink Spots a decade earlier, they were the most popular

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black group of their time, achieving success in a crooning, middle-of-the-road style that put a soulful coat of uptown polish on pop-oriented, harmony-rich material. Their lengthy string of hits began in 1955 with "Only You" and continued till the end of the decade, including four singles that reached #1: "The Great Pretender," "My Prayer," "Twilight Time" and "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes." The secret of the Platters' success had to do with their choice of material: adult ballads and standards that predated the rock and roll era, which were delivered with crisp, impeccable harmonies framed by string-laden arrangements. Much of the credit is due to Buck Ram, the group's producer, manager and guiding light, who had worked with acts like the Ink Spots in the Forties.

The group got its start in Los Angeles in 1952 and made its first recordings a year later for the Federal label before moving to Mercury, where they remained until the mid-Sixties. An initially shifting lineup stabilized around five members: Tony Williams, David Lynch, Herb Reed, Paul Robi and Zola Taylor. During the latter half of the Fifties, the Platters were a global sensation, touring the world as "international ambassadors of musical goodwill" (per their record label) and appearing in a number of rock and roll-themed movies, including Rock Around the Clock and The Girl Can't Help It. Though the Platters thereafter experienced several personnel changes, beginning with the 1960 departure of lead vocalist Williams for a solo career, they continued to enjoy sporadic chart success in the Sixties with such songs as "With This Ring." Even after their high profile waned on the national scene, the Platters remained popular along the Southeast coast, where they rank among the foremost exemplars of the "beach music" sound. Elsewhere, they're fondly remembered as a throwback to a golden era when pop, rhythm & blues and rock and roll flowed together in perfect harmony. --- rockhall.com

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