

Jools Holland, Ruby Turner – Jools & Ruby (2015)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 11 December 2015 17:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 17 March 2021 17:45

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01 – *Peace In The Valley* 03:28 02 – *Roll Out Of This Hole* 02:56 03 – *The Informer* (Ash Howes Mix) 03:32 04 – *Pray Have Mercy* 03:09 05 – *Christmas Song* 02:42 06 – *Same Old Heart* 03:20 07 – *Remember Me* 03:13 08 – *Honey Hush* 02:38 09 – *Boring* 03:33 10 – *My Country Man* 02:59 11 – *When I Get Home* 03:40 12 – *Jumpin' At The Jubilee* 02:30 13 – *Love Made Them Do That* 04:22 14 – *To Love A Child* 03:16 15 – *This Train* 03:18 16 – *You Are So Beautiful* 03:25 17 – *Count Me In* 03:32 18 – *Nobody But You* 03:43 19 – *Get Away Jordan* 03:32 20 – *I Still Went Wrong* 03:58 21 – *Jumpin' In the Morning* 02:54 22 – *Precious Lord* 04:02

Backing Vocals – Louise Marshall (tracks: 1 to 4, 6 to 9, 13 to 17, 19 to 21), Mabel Ray (tracks: 1, 4, 6, 20, 21), Phil Veacock (tracks: 2, 5, 9, 12, 13, 16), Rosie Holland (tracks: 2, 7, 9, 13, 15, 16, 19) Baritone Saxophone – Nick Lunt (tracks: 1 to 8, 10 to 15, 17, 19 to 21) Bass – Dave Swift (tracks: 1 to 15, 17 to 21) Drums – Gilson Lavis (tracks: 1 to 21) Guitar – Mark Flanagan (tracks: 1 to 15, 17 to 21) Organ – Chris Holland (tracks: 1 to 21) Percussion – Laurie Latham (tracks: 1 to 15, 17 to 21) Saxophone – Derek Nash (tracks: 1 to 8, 12, 14, 15, 19 to 21), Lisa Grahame (tracks: 2, 3, 6 to 15, 17 to 21), Michael 'Bammi' Rose (tracks: 2, 3, 7 to 9, 12 to 15, 17, 18, 20, 21), Phil Veacock (tracks: 1 to 15, 17 to 20), Kenji Fenton (tracks: 1, 4, 6), Peter Long* (tracks: 7, 9, 13, 17 to 19), Tom Richards (5) (tracks: 1, 4, 6) Trombone – Fayyaz Virji (tracks: 1 to 9, 12 to 15, 17, 20, 21), Rico Rodriguez (tracks: 2, 7 to 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 21), Roger Goslyn (tracks: 1, 2, 4 to 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17 to 21), Winston Rollins (tracks: 1 to 15, 17 to 21) Trombone [Additional] – Alistair White (tracks: 10, 15, 17 to 19), Part Hartley (tracks: 1, 3, 8, 12) Trumpet – Chris Storr (tracks: 1 to 15, 17 to 21), Jason McDermid (tracks: 1 to 10, 12 to 15, 17 to 21), Jon Scott (tracks: 1 to 15, 17 to 21), Simon Finch (tracks: 3, 8, 12)

Jamaican-born R&B singer Ruby Turner has been part of Jools Holland's touring band for more than a decade now, her rich and athletic tone a great match for the band's hectic, muscular rhythms. This is a bumper disc with 22 songs, although unfortunately only four of those are new recordings, so serious fans should check how many they already have before splashing out. There's a modest festive element, with Jools's arrangement of Wendy Cope's "Christmas Song" and a couple of spirituals, such as "Get Away Jordan", but there are no carols, so it's something that even the Richard Dawkins in your family will enjoy, and at any time of the year.

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No one will fall off their chair with surprise at any of this music, and novelty-seekers, especially those with beards to stroke, should probably move on now. We're on familiar but fertile territory, anchored in boogie woogie, blues and R&B, with touches of country and gospel. However, it just sounds great: the fact that the performers know each other and the music so well gives them licence to let rip, and the results are some precise, energetic and deeply joyous performances.

Turner's voice is such a fruity, powerful instrument she can easily compete with a full band, and those songs – "Honey Hush" and "Jumpin' At The Jubilee", for example – in which Jools is boogieing, Ruby is hooting, and the band is swinging like a funfair pirate ship are irresistible. Jools's piano is an important rhythmic addition, and his power balances Turner's voice, which otherwise could take over. Just occasionally, there's a lapse of taste: the arrangement on "Christmas Song" is more staid than most, and the plodding brass line can't help but evoke a Santa's grotto oompah band in a windswept shopping centre. But the best are screamingly vivid and slick. Shame, then, that more aren't new, because this formula is cracking.
---matthewwrighter, theartsdesk.com

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