

Seasick Steve - Hubcap Music (2013)

Written by bluesever

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01 – Down On the Farm 02 – Self Sufficient Man 03 – Keep On Keepin' On 04 – Over You 05 – The Way I Do 06 – Purple Shadows 07 – Freedom Road 08 – Home 09 – Hope 10 – Heavy Weight 11 – Coast Is Clear 12 – Untitled Musicians: Seasick Steve – guitar, vocals
Jack White – guitar John Paul Jones – bass Dan Magnusson - drums

There you go, Hubcap Music. At least you know where you are with Steve who – on his sixth album in nine years since he became an overnight success in his early 60s – sticks with the grizzly, scuffed-up blues that made him such a hit with the purists. It's the same unspoilt lo-fi approach that's attracted starry names like Jack White and John Paul Jones to play on this album, and the same one that makes you not even notice they're there.

The downside to raw appeal is it becomes an end in itself, and here the songwriting suffers. Hubcap Music has a surfeit of barrelling blues tracks that feel as if they've been made a million times over, from the heads-down redneck boogie of Down On The Farm and Self Sufficient Man to the Exile On Main Street-era Stonesy rifferama of Freedom Road. And the dumb funk of Keep On Keepin' On has pub band written all over it.

But then the delicate, wistful Purple Shadows pops up along with the Muscle Shoals soul of Coast Is Clear, and Steve's a different proposition altogether. Perhaps you can teach an old dog new tricks after all. --- Matthew Horton, virginmedia.com

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