

The Great Metropolitan Steam Band - The Great Metropolitan Steam Band (1969)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Blues Ain't Nothin'* 02. *Keep Your Hands Off Her* 03. *Doctor Jazz* 04. *Cocaine Blues* 05. *Spare Change Rag* 06. *It's Tight Like That* 07. *I Want A Big Butter And Egg Man* 08. *Jackass Blues* 09. *How Sweet I Roamed From Field To Field* 10. *Cold In Hand* 11. *Basin Street Blues* Bonnie Bagley - vocals Rocky Rockwood - guitar, mandolin & harmonica Eliot Kenin (banjo) – also listed as producer Peter (Sy) Simmonds – bass

Sometimes I hear an album which is simply very difficult to describe- The musicians in The Great Metropolitan Steam Band blended styles which were popular in the American ragtime and vaudeville music of the 1920's and the 1930's with musical styles that were popular among the progressive rock bands and the folk- rock musicians of the late 1960's, thus creating a unique "fusion" or blend here- I don't know what else I can say about this album, if you listen to it, it become very obvious from the first 2 songs that they're not playing 1920's or 1930's style songs true to the style of that era, they are intentionally blending styles from different eras. I am NOT a music historian, I have only the knowledge of a layperson here, the lyrics and the singing styles sound more reminiscent of songs from the 1920's and the 1930's, some of the riffs that the guitarist and the pianist are playing sound very late 1960's-esque to me- The sound is very interesting, the songs are all well done, and I do recommend this album- I don't know anything else about this band, they may have been blending the styles from different eras to make a comment about a comparison between some of the social or the political issues of the 1920's and the 1930's with the social and the political issues of the latter half of the 1960's, or they might have just been having fun blending styles from different eras purely for fun... --- cott Benowitz, amazon.com

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