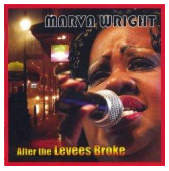
Marva Wright - After The Levees Broke (2007)



01. The Levee Is Breaking Down 02. Katrina Blues 03. God's Good Hands [From Hurricane in the Bayou] 04. The That's the Way It Is 05. You Are My Sunshine 06. You Got a Hold of Me 07. Funny Not Sunny Kind of Love 08. Bluesiana Mama '07 09. Rock Me 10. I Have Had My Fun 11. Crazy 12. Change Is Gonna Come Jeffrey "Jellybean" Alexander - Drums Frank Cotinola - Drums Davell Crawford - Organ, Piano, Producer Eddie Christmas - Drums Michael Goods - Keyboards, Main Personnel, Piano Donald Harrison - Saxophone Jefrey Alexander - Drums Geechie Johnson - Vocals (Background) Keiko Komaki - Organ Jason Mingledorff - Saxophone Brian Murray - Trumpet, Vocals (Background) Donald Ramsey - Bass Earl "Chinna" Smith - Vocals (Background) Allen Toussaint - Main Personnel, Piano Benny Turner - Guitar (Bass), Harmony, Producer, Vocals (Background) Cornell Williams - Bass, Vocals (Background) Steve Wood - Guitar, Organ, Producer Marva Wright - Primary Artist, Vocals June Yamagishi - Guitar, Producer

There were so many blues and country songs written after the 1927 Mississippi River floods that there have been entire collections compiled of them. Nearly two years after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, stretching from Biloxi to western Louisiana and all but obliterating New Orleans through a combination of bad luck, poor design, and bureaucratic idiocy, the Crescent City was still only barely on its feet when local legend Marva Wright released After the Levees Broke. Likely the first album by a New Orleans artist to fully address the storm's aftermath, After the Levees Broke keeps the finger-pointing down to a minimum, preferring to make its case in more subtle fashion by including suddenly pertinent covers of classics like Willie Nelson's "Crazy" (transformed into a love affair with a tempestuous city) and a complete recasting of Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come." In this context, Wright transforms Bruce Hornsby's "The Way It Is" from a well-meaning but somewhat facile take on racism from a middle-class white guy's perspective into a fiery, soulful refrain. More pointed original tunes, most written by producer and bassist Benny Turner, include the powerful "The Levee Is Breaking Down" and "Katrina Blues," so far the closest this disaster has come to the sort of first-person blues spawned by the 1927 floods. Far from the bon temps roulez vibe of Wright's earlier work, After the Levees Broke is both timely and deeply traditional. ---Stewart Mason, AllMusic Review

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