

David Clayton-Thomas □ – David Clayton-Thomas! (1969)

Written by bluesever

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A1 I Got A Woman 4:35 A2 Say Boss Man 3:05 A3 Who's Been Talkin' 2:33 A4 Call It Stormy Monday 4:53 A5 Done Somebody Wrong 2:30 B1 Tobacco Road 5:07 B2 Boom Boom 2:35 B3 Good Lovin' 2:10 B4 Poison Ivy 2:10 B5 Howlin' For My Darling 2:32

This 1969 album was issued soon after the singer had made his recording debut with Blood, Sweat & Tears, taking both himself and the band to superstardom. Clayton-Thomas has said that this LP was a cash-in, compiled by a producer who located unreleased pre-Blood, Sweat & Tears tapes that Thomas made in Canada, and then dubbed them with horns to make them sound more like Blood, Sweat & Tears. The result isn't entirely disreputable, but in the manner of such records, there's a curious exploitative feel about the product, right down to its basic artwork and total lack of liner notes and musician credits. It consists almost entirely of blues, R&B, and soul covers on the order of "I Got a Woman," "Stormy Monday," "Tobacco Road," "Boom Boom," and "Poison Ivy." (Clayton-Thomas is awarded the writing credits for a couple of tunes that are in fact covers of Howlin' Wolf's "Who's Been Talkin'" and Elmore James' "Done Somebody Wrong.") It's not too imaginative, as the set is basically that of a blues-soul-oriented mid-'60s cover band. But Clayton-Thomas does sing the material reasonably well, the backing combo grooving along in a slightly jazzy soul-rock mode, with organ and occasional raw garage rock guitar. The overdubbed horns do sound awkward, though, as if they're indeed trying to shove the tracks in a more Blood, Sweat & Tears direction. If this was going to have been released at all, it would have been better to leave the original tapes unaltered. ---Richie Unterberger, AllMusic Review

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