

Katherine Jenkins - Believe (2009)

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 29 December 2009 11:21 - Last Updated Monday, 19 March 2018 09:42

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1. *Till There Was You* 3:31 2. *Bring Me To Life* 3:46 3. *Angel* 5:54 4. *I Believe (With Andrea Bocelli)* 4:24 5. *Love Never Dies* 4:24 6. *Fear Of Falling* 3:58 7. *Ancora Non Sai (With Violinist Andre Rieu)* 4:58 8. *No Woman, No Cry (With Cody Carey)* 4:54 9. *La Vie En Rose* 3:22 10. *La Califfa (With Chris Botti)* 3:30 11. *Who Wants To Live Forever* 4:07 12. *Endless Love* 4:16 13. *Silent Night* 4:41

Backing Vocals – Courtney Blooding, Richard Marx Cello – Vannessa Freebairn-Smith Flute – Andrea Bocelli Guitar – Dean Parks, Michael Thompson Harp – Gayle Levant Keyboards, Backing Vocals – Jochem van der Saag Piano – David Foster Synth – Jochem van der Saag Vocals (mezzo-soprano) - Katherine Jenkins

Reflecting her most high-profile year to date thanks to some controversial tabloid confessions, a celebrity relationship, and a judging role on ITV's *Popstar to Operastar*, Welsh soprano Katherine Jenkins' seventh studio album, *Believe*, is undoubtedly the most accessible and commercial offering of her six-year career. The traditional opera standards and arias of her early albums *Premiere* and *Second Nature* are instead replaced by classical pop renditions of contemporary pop songs and film themes produced by Grammy Award-winning David Foster (Michael Bubl , Celine Dion). Of course, the likes of Sarah McLachlan's "Angel," Queen's "Who Wants to Live Forever," and Nino Rota's "Parla Pi  Piano (Love Theme from *The Godfather*)" are fairly predictable fare for classical crossover artists, having been covered on recent albums from Angelis, Rhydian, and Patrizio Buanne. However, her reworking of Evanescence's nu-metal chart-topper "Bring Me to Life," which adds even more overblown drama to the epic original, and a surprisingly subtle cover version of Bob Marley's "No Woman, No Cry" are clear indications that Jenkins isn't afraid to tackle material far outside her comfort zone. Elsewhere, Jenkins' breathtaking and versatile vocal abilities are showcased on a stunning performance of Edith Piaf's "La Vie en Rose," a stirring duet with Andrea Bocelli on "I Believe," and the album's only original composition, "Ancora Non Sai," which also features Dutch violinist Andr  Rieu. A Deluxe Edition, featuring the theme from Andrew Lloyd Webber's new musical *Love Never Dies* and a rendition of Lionel Richie and Diana Ross' "Endless Love" was later released, but it was the 2010 Platinum Edition that helped the album reenter the charts over a year after its initial peak. Adding seven new tracks to the original, it includes two festive songs, "In the Bleak Midwinter" and a live performance of "O Holy Night" with Michael Bolton, a gorgeous operatic

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interpretation of Embrace's "Gravity," and "Tell Me I'm Not Dreaming," a brand-new ballad produced by John Shanks (Bon Jovi). Believe, in all its forms, is a huge leap forward from her previous traditional output, and although there's still enough material to keep her classical fan base happy, its leanings toward more contemporary fare suggest that a Charlotte Church-style pop career re-invention could well be in the cards, something which -- on this evidence -- Jenkins is more than capable of pulling off. ---Jon O'Brien, AllMusic Review

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