Abbey Lincoln – Abbey sings Abbey (2007)

01. Blue Monk 5:11 02. Throw It Away 5:17 03. And It's Supposed To Be Love 4:45 04. Should've Been 5:26 05. The World Is Falling Down 3:38 06. Bird Alone 4:53 07. Down Here Below 6:30 08. The Music Is The Magic 3:51 play 09. Learning How To Listen 4:35 10. The Merry Dancer 6:27 11. Love Has Gone Away 4:38 12. Being Me 3:55 play Personnel: Abbey Lincoln- Vocals Larry Campbell- Acoustic guitar, Electric guitar, National guitar, Pedal steel, Mandolin Scott Colley- Bass Gil Goldstein- Accordion Dave Eggar- Cello Shawn Pelton- Drums

For those who expect their jazz singers to possess a unique timbre, the departure of Shirley Horn passes the "greatest-living-vocalist" crown to the reclusive Abbey Lincoln. Her voice, while unmistakeably personal, carries the same bluesy texture and total emotional commitment of a royal line going back to Billie Holiday and beyond.

She's also a fine composer whose bittersweet songs have a strong identity. Warmly backed by a group featuring cellist Dave Eggar, accordionist Gil Goldstein and Larry Campbell on mandolin and various guitars, she sounds contentedly sad.

The first track, Thelonious Monk's "Blue Monk" (lyrics by Lincoln) is the only historically jazz track on this album but it falls in nicely with the folksy country blues exploration of emotion of the rest of the album. "Should've Been" is real class while "And It's Supposed To Be Love" is a happy-go-Norah Jones time turn. There's definitely some voodoo mambo going on with "The Music Is The Magic". The final track, "Being Me" shows an affirmation of an ending which is a bit of a cliché but that's easy enough to overlook bearing in mind the quality of the rest of the CD.

Larry Campbell's guitar work and Gil Goldstein's accordion really set the scene for this uplifting set for the quiet times in your life, but Abbey is the real star here.

At almost 77 years of age Abbey Lincoln has been composing, writing and/or performing for almost sixty years, and Abbey Sings Abbey is a stunning collection of some of the singer's most memorable works.

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