

Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers - Miss Smith To You (2009)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 12 January 2012 19:34 - Last Updated Sunday, 11 January 2015 20:58

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1. *Miss Brown To You* [play](#) 2. *It Don't Mean A Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)* 3. *Daddy* 4. *With My Man* 5. *I'm Not Evil* 6. *'Deed I Do*

[play](#)

7. *I Ain't Got Nothin' But The Blues* 8. *Boogie Woogie (I May Be Wrong)* 9. *On The Sunny Side Of The Street* 10. *Need A Little Sugar In My Bowl* 11. *Jumpin' In The Morning* 12. *When The Saints Go Marching In*

Musicians: Lavay Smith (vocals); Mike Olmos, Allen Smith, Bill Ortiz (trumpet); Danny Armstrong (Trombone & Vocals); Jules Broussard, Charles McNeal (Alto and Tenor Saxophones); Howard Wiley, Robert Stewart (Tenor Saxophone); Ron Stallings (Tenor and Baritone Saxophones); Pete Cornell (Alto, Tenor and Baritone Saxophones); Charlie Siebert (Guitar); David Ewell, Marcus Shelby (String Bass); Darrell Green (Drums); Chris Siebert (Piano, Arranger, Bandleader).

With her vintage dresses and unabashedly sexy posturing, Lavay Smith evokes a bygone era, one when jazz was for dancing rather than for sitting and listening to, and when jump blues hadn't yet been displaced by rock & roll. The other thing that is unabashed about Smith is her repertoire, which on her third album consists primarily of standards -- and not just any standards, but songs so familiar they border on period cliché: "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing," "'Deed I Do," "On the Sunny Side of the Street," even (heaven help us) "When the Saints Go Marching In." What can justify a program like this is any combination of the following: innovative arrangements; tremendous energy; a voice that either surprises or simply knocks down the walls; or undeniable chops. All of those elements are in evidence in various combinations throughout *Miss Smith to You*. Smith's voice is a very fine thing, powerful and flexible, capable of both purring insinuation and brazen assertion, and always full of joy. Her band is, if anything, even better: pianist Chris Siebert has created brilliant arrangements that combine comfortably mainstream principles of horn voicing with subtly crafty articulations and filigrees that tend not to assert themselves brassily, but rather lurk in the background for you to discover if you make the effort to listen for them. The three original songs are almost as good as the classics that make up the rest of the program, which is high praise indeed. --- Rick Anderson, Rovi

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Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers' much anticipated third album blows away all expectations. With each CD Lavay's voice has developed and matured to become even more soulful and masterful than it was to begin with! This lady is all class and clearly has the chops to handle some of the greats. Indeed, Chris Siebert's arrangements and the musicality demonstrated by this band as a whole are more than just a fitting tribute to some of the greatest swing, jazz and blues legends ever known.... they allow the album to achieve a greatness in its own right. In all, this album (like the rest of the Skillet Lickers' albums) takes us back to a better time in music, and is a much welcomed and much needed treat! --- Tatiana L. Ortiz "You may know what you ..." (California), amazon.com

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