

Cassandra Wilson – Sings Standards (2002)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Polka Dots And Moonbeams* 2. *I Wished On The Moon* 3. *'Round Midnight* 4. *Angel* 5. *I've Grown Accustomed To His Face* 6. *Chelsea Bridge* 7. *I'm Old Fashioned* 8. *Baubles, Bangles, And Beads* 9. *Blue Skies* 10. *Blue In Green* Cassandra Wilson - Vocals
Jean-Paul Bourelly - Guitar Terri Lyne Carrington - Drums Kevin Bruce Harris - Bass Mark Johnson - Drums Mulgrew Miller - Piano Grachan Moncur III - Trombone Lonnie Plaxico - Bass Reggie Washington - Bass James Weidman - Piano Rod Williams - Piano

Jazz fans who complain about not hearing enough jazz in Cassandra Wilson's eclectic sound, which has increasingly tilted toward pop and blues, will find ample rewards in this collection of her (relatively) straight-ahead efforts from the late '80s. Drawing from four albums for the JMT label, it charts her steady growth away from Brooklyn's electric, funk-based M-Base school and into an earthier, more personal approach. Going to school herself on Betty Carter's elastic time feel and unhurried rhythms, she avoids predictability on songs such as "'Round Midnight" and a wordless rendering of Billy Strayhorn's "Chelsea Bridge." There's less interest in her handling of earlier standards such as "I'm Old Fashioned" and "Blue Skies," which lack depth, but never any lack of attractiveness. ---Lloyd Sachs, amazon.com

Cassandra Wilson is ostensibly a jazz singer, but more often than not crosses the creative line between folk, pop, and jazz. This collection of previously released tracks features Wilson on various jazz standards giving one a nice view of Wilson as simply a jazz vocalist. While this is in no way a "must have" for fans of the much lauded singer, it is a nice place for jazz aficionados to begin listening to this singular artist. ---Matt Collar, Rovi

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