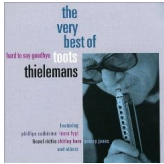


Toots Thielemans - The Very Best [Hard to Say Goodbye] (2000)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 13 May 2012 16:00 - Last Updated Thursday, 04 June 2015 08:24

Toots Thielemans - The Very Best [Hard to Say Goodbye] (2000)



01. Circle Of Smiles 02. Dat Mistige Rooie Beest 03. Bluesette [play](#) 04. Kleine Blonde Held 05. Make Someone Happy 06. The Man In Brown 07. Good Morning Heartache 08. Velas 09. Nothing Else Matters 10. Song For Sara 11. Somewhere Over The Rainbow 12. My Funny Valentine 13. Corcovado 14. Old Friend [play](#) 15. Imagine 16. Turks Fruit 17. Hard To Say Goodbye

Although preceded by Larry Adler (who has actually spent much of his career playing popular and classical music), Toots Thielemans virtually introduced the chromatic harmonica as a jazz instrument. In fact, ever since the mid-'50s, he has had no close competitors. Toots simply plays the harmonica with the dexterity of a saxophonist and has even successfully traded off with the likes of Oscar Peterson.

Toots Thielemans' first instrument was the accordion, which he started when he was three. Although he started playing the harmonica when he was 17, Thielemans' original reputation was made as a guitarist who was influenced by Django Reinhardt. Very much open to bop, Thielemans played in American GI clubs in Europe, visited the U.S. for the first time in 1947, and shared the bandstand with Charlie Parker at the Paris Jazz Festival of 1949. He toured Europe as a guitarist with the Benny Goodman Sextet in 1950, and the following year moved to the U.S. During 1953-1959, Toots was a member of the George Shearing quintet (mostly as a guitarist) and has freelanced ever since. He first recorded his big hit "Bluesette" (which featured his expert whistling and guitar) in 1961, and ever since has been greatly in demand (particularly for his harmonica and his whistling) on pop records (including many dates with Quincy Jones) and as a jazz soloist. Toots' two-volume Brasil Project was popular in the 1990s and found him smoothly interacting on harmonica with top Brazilian musicians. ---Scott Yanow, All Music Guide

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