Written by bluesever Wednesday, 24 May 2017 14:53 -

Toots Thielemans & Svend Asmussen □ – Toots & Svend (1983)



A1 Sophisticated Lady A2 Mr. Nashville A3 Who Can Sail Without Wind? A4 Yesterday And Today B1 The Spirit Feel B2 Denise B3 Blues On Blues Guitar, Harmonica, Whistling – Toots Thielemans Violin, Viola, Cello – Svend Asmussen Bass – Red Mitchell (tracks: A1 to A4, B2) Drums, Tambourine – Ed Thigpen Electric Bass – Stefan Brolund (tracks: A2, A4, B1, B3) Organ, Electric Piano – Kjell Öhman

The great harmonica player Toots Thielemans teams up on this 1972 date with the talented veteran swing violinist Svend Asmussen but the results are less interesting than one might hope. Backed by a rather anonymous-sounding rhythm section comprised of Kjell Ohman's organ and electric piano, electric bassist Stefan Brolund and/or acoustic bassist Red Mitchell and drummer Ed Thigpen, Svend and Toots play fine but the material is rather erratic. Perhaps Thielemans had been in the studios too long at this point, but the somewhat commercial A&M LP (which was originally released in Europe on Sonet) is generally quite forgettable. Any album featuring a song titled "Mr. Nashville" can be considered ominous. ---Scott Yanow, AllMusic Review

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