

## Francoise Hardy - If You Listen (1971/2000)

Written by bluelover

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01. *If You Listen* (3:38) 02. *Ocean* (3:51) 03. *Until It's Time For You To Go* (3:01) 04. *The Garden Of Jane Delawnay* (3:38) 05. *Sometimes* (3:13) 06. *Let My Name Be Sorrow* (3:08) 07. *Brulure* (3:01) 08. *Can't Get The One I Want* (2:52) 09. *I Think It's Gonna Rain Today* (2:44) 10. *Take My Hand For A While* (3:03) 11. *Bown Bown Bown* (3:55) 12. *Till The Morning Comes* (1:35) 13. *Message Personnel (English Version)* (4:15) Arranged By, Conductor : Hervé Roy (tracks: 6), Micky Jones (tracks: 11), Tommy Brown (3) (tracks: 1, 11), Tony Cox (tracks: 1 to 5, 7 to 10, 12).

Sung (except for one track) in English, this 1972 album (originally titled just *Françoise Hardy*) was reissued on CD by Virgin France in 2000 under the title *If You Listen*, and issued in some foreign territories under yet different titles in the 1970s. However it was titled, it was a good, tasteful, and subdued set of folk-rock- and singer/songwriter-influenced covers (though the one French song, "Brulure," was the sole original Hardy composition). It's no surprise that the mood here is dignified rainy-day sorrow. But that was Hardy's forte, and the arrangements, emphasizing acoustic guitar and light strings, seem to indicate she was doing some listening to British folk-rock and American singer/songwriters. So does the choice of covers, including songs by Buffy Sainte-Marie, Neil Young ("Till the Morning Comes"), Beverley Martyn, and Randy Newman ("I Think It's Gonna Rain Today"). There's also the quite obscure "The Garden of Jane Delawnay," a misspelled interpretation of "The Garden of Jane Delawney" by the British folk-rock band the Trees; "Let My Name Be Sorrow," originally done by Mary Hopkin; and a couple of tunes co-written by Mick Jones, later of Foreigner. None of songs rate among her best work, but it's still a good album, often overlooked even by Hardy fans and notable in that just one of the English songs ("Bown Bown Bown") was also recorded by Hardy in a French version. It's also much superior to her album of English cover versions of just three years before, *Françoise Hardy en Anglais*, which was over-produced and far heavier on the syrup. --- Richie Unterberger, Rovi

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