

St. James Infirmary Blues

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 10 June 2010 17:10 - Last Updated Wednesday, 11 March 2015 21:11

St. James Infirmary Blues

For few days now my thoughts are somehow floating around Eric Burdon and The Animals. Today I've listened to several pieces executed by **The Lippa Jazz Band**, a group that plays very traditional jazz.

Their personnel are equally traditional: a trumpet, a trombone, a clarinet, a banjo, a drums and a tuba. The last instrument gets my kicks the most, because it is very rarely used these days. Lippa Jazz Band is an Italian band founded in the Nineties. They're enjoying quite a big success. I like the way they're playing6 blues.



Lippa Jazz Band

Commanding part of their repertoire is being performed on instruments. Vocal is being used on special occasions only. One of the 'sung' pieces is '**St. James Infirmary Blues**'. And that's the blues that links Lippa Jazz Band with

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The Animals and Eric Burdon

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St. James Infirmary

The song is very old. Its source can be found in English folk music and it reaches XVIII century. As usual in similar cases the piece had many alternative versions of lyrics as well as titles.

In England the song was known as '*The Unfortunate Rake*', '*Unfortunate Lad*' and '*The Young Man Cut Down in His Prime*'

. Those versions wheeled around whole english-speaking world.

Americans went their own way. They created two new variants called '*The Streets of Laredo*' and '*The Dying Cowboy*'

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I've had down in Old Joe's bar-room, on a
got me by the apron, the drink is served
you see and the u - su - al crowd is in there...