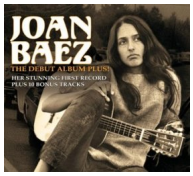
Joan Baez – The Debut Album Plus! (2011)



The Debut Album *01 – Silver Dagger 02 – East Virginia 03 – Fare Thee Well (10,000 Miles) 04 – House of the Rising Sun 05 – All My Trials 06 – Wildwood Flower 07 – Donna Donna*
play
08 – John Riley 09 – Rake and Rambling Boy 10 – Little Moses 11 – Mary Hamilton 12 – Henry Martin 13 – El Preso Número Nueve
from Folksingers 'Round Harvard Square
14 – The Banks of Ohio 15 – Oh What A Beautiful City 16 – Sail Away Ladies 17 – Black Is The Colour 18 – Lowlands 19 – Virgin Mary (What You Gonna Call) 20 – Kitty 21 – So Soon In The Morning 22 – Careless Love
play
23 – Don't Weep After Me

Joan Baez's first album was released in 1960 and it was a revelation. Here was an angelic-looking, dark-haired 19-year-old singing ancient songs, most of them drawn from the Child Ballads, a set of 305 numbered ballads from England and Scotland (and several American variants) collected by Francis James Child in the late 19th century, with a soprano voice so pure and mesmerizing that it appeared as timeless as a voice in an elegant and graceful dream. She made ancient love and murder ballads seem like cool and serious business, and without Baez as a virginal-looking poster girl, the commercial end of the urban folk revival of the early '60s might never have gotten off the ground.

This release includes a remastered version of that first album and adds in Folksingers 'Round Harvard Square, Baez's first actual record, which features her singing solo on six songs, as part of a duo with Bill Wood on four songs, and as part of a trio with Wood and Ted Alevizos on another song. The bonus set originally appeared on LP in 1959 from the little Veritas Records label and was intended as an introduction to the Cambridge, Massachusetts folk scene that was just beginning to flourish at the time. Paired like this, one realizes that Baez just didn't suddenly

appear from the heavens after all when her official album came out a year later, but that her approach and stage presence had been artfully formed and nurtured in the Cambridge folk clubs. ---all music guide

First released in 1960, the debut solo album from the legend that is Joan Baez was met with moderate success upon its release but, having ‘knocked ‘em dead’ at the previous year’s Newport Folk Festival, Joan was now accepted by that still very conservative community as one of their own and so began a quite incredible career that continues apace to this day. Presented here in its completion, albeit with digitally remastered sound, the collection of thirteen folk traditionals, where classic standards such as ‘All My Trials’, ‘House Of The Rising Sun’ [a full year before Dylan approached the song] and ‘Silver Dagger’ rub shoulders with lesser known child ballads from the old country, Spanish language laments and Yiddish theatre songs remain very much a delightful listening experience. The record has remained pertinent and sounds anything but dated half a century after it was recorded.

Paired with this masterpiece is Joan’s real first record, ‘Folksingers Round Harvard Square’ a set of songs she recorded with friends from the Cambridge MA folk scene in 1959. Originally released on the tiny Veritas Records with eighteen tracks, the ten cuts featuring Joan [6 solo, 4 duets and 1 three piece] are included on this timely re-issue – the first time they have seen the light of day since the record’s original release. However these historic recordings serve not just as an introduction to Baez’s very earliest work, they also remain fresh, exiting and an enormously enjoyable album all these years on. --- chromedreams.co.uk

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