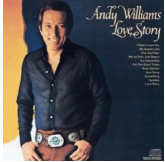


Andy Williams - Love Story (1971)

Written by bluelover

Tuesday, 13 October 2009 11:15 - Last Updated Friday, 29 April 2016 08:49

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1. (where Do I Begin) Love Story 2. Your Song 3. For The Good Times 4. Something 5. It S Impossible 6. We Ve Only Just Begun 7. I Think I Love You 8. Candida 9. Fire And Rain 10. Rose Garden 11. My Sweet Lord

Somewhere beneath the avalanche of accolades for Sinatra and Bennett, Andy Williams remains one of America's most underrecognized pop vocalists. In addition to the sheer beauty of his smokey high baritone, husky falsetto, power, diction, and superb control, Williams is one of the few from the old school who remained open to the changing musical scene that emerged in the 1960s. Eventually, in addition to singing the great standards, he branched out to embrace country, pop, rock, gospel, Christmas, and even disco tunes.

In the late '60s and early '70s, Williams covered many of the hits of the period. "Love Story" illustrates his ability to present these songs in ways comfortable for him, while retaining their contemporary feeling. Where other vocalists might have sounded awkward, Andy pulled it off, because he really got into the spirit of these tunes, as well as the contemporary style in which they were written.

Highlights include intimate versions of Elton John's "Your Song," George Harrison's "Something," and James Taylor's "Fire and Rain." There's a gospel-tinged reading of "My Sweet Lord." Andy even tackles unlikely teen ditties like "Candida" and "I Think I Love You" and turns them into his own. Artie Butler lends his modern horn- and guitar-dominated touches to the arrangements, as he did on charts for Mark Lindsay ("Silverbird," "Arizona") and Helen Reddy ("I Am Woman").

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Although concentrating on covers during this period, Williams continued to break his own hits. As the title track proves, he never abandoned the great standards. His sweeping version of the vocally demanding theme from "Love Story" became a top ten hit in 1971 and remains one of his most requested songs. Notably, this album peaked at number three, achieving gold and platinum status in a year when the other top ten slots were occupied by the likes of Janis Joplin, Santana, Jimi Hendrix, and Chicago. ---Ben Alba, amazon.com

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