

## Johnny Cash - Silver [1979]

Written by bluelover

Tuesday, 10 May 2011 18:25 - Last Updated Wednesday, 22 February 2017 14:09

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1. *L & N Don't Stop Here Anymore* 2. *Lonesome to the Bone* 3. *Bull Rider* [play](#) 4. *I'll Say It's True* - Johnny Cash, , George Jones 5. *(Ghost) Riders in the Sky* 6. *Cocaine Blues* [play](#)

7. *Muddy Waters* 8. *West Canterbury Subdivision Blues* 9. *Lately I Been Leanin' Toward the Blues* 10. *I'm Gonna Sit on the Porch and Pick on My Old Gitar*

Personnel \* Johnny Cash - Vocals, Guitar \* Marshall Grant - Bass \* W.S. Holland - Drums \* Bob Wootton - Electric Guitar \* Jack Routh, Jerry Hensley - Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar \* Jack Clement - Acoustic Guitar \* Brian Ahern - Acoustic Guitar, Earthwood Bass, 6-String Bass, Percussion \* Earl Ball, Charles Cochran - Piano \* Jack Hale, Bob Lewin - Trumpet \* Ricky Skaggs - Fiddle \* Bob Johnson - Mandocello \* Jo-El Sonnier - Concertina/Harmonica \* Mark Morris - Percussion \* Alisa Jones - Hammer Dulcimer \* George Jones, Jack Wesley Routh, June Carter Cash, Helen Carter, Anita Carter, Jan Howard - Vocals

Silver was a below-average Cash outing, due both to the routine material and the mixed attempt to update his sound with more modern production techniques. Brian Ahern, who produced Emmylou Harris, was at the helm of a set that often put a more contemporary sheen on the sound with filters and phase shifters. Plenty of session help was on hand as well, sometimes on trumpet and French horn, and it's usually not a great sign when the list of players on some tracks run to more than a dozen. The idea was probably to make Cash sound less old-fashioned; the ironic result was to make it sound more dated and flat than most of the rest of his catalog, without comparing to his better recordings in the quality of the content. Still, erratic production can't smother Cash's strengths, and the record's not terrible, just uninspired. Some of the better songs include his reading of Tom T. Hall's "The L&N Don't Stop Here Anymore"; a cover of "(Ghost) Riders in the Sky" (a song that's hard to ruin) with contributions from Ricky Skaggs, Wayne Jackson, and the Carter Family; and veteran cohort Jack Clement's memorably titled "West Canterbury Subdivision Blues." George Jones adds harmony vocals to "I'll Say It's True." ---Richie Unterberger, AllMusic Review

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