

Elton John – Empty Sky (1969)

Written by bluelover

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01. *Empty Sky* – 8:26
02. *Val-Hala* – 4:06
03. *Western Ford Gateway* – 3:12
04. *Hymn 2000* – 4:25
05. *Lady What's Tomorrow* – 3:06
06. *Sails* - 3:38
07. *The Scaffold* – 3:12
08. *Skyline Pigeon* – 3:32
09. *Gulliver/Hay Chewed/Reprise* – 6:58

Personnel:

- Elton John - piano, organ, electric piano, harpsichord, vocals
- Caleb Quaye - electric and acoustic guitars, conga drums
- Tony Murray - bass
- Roger Pope - drums, percussion
- Don Fay - tenor saxophone, flute
- Graham Vickery - harmonica
- Nigel Olsson - drums (05)
- Steve Brown – producer

All songs written by Elton John and Bernie Taupin.

Although he had made a number of re-recordings of popular songs for a budget record label in the late '60s, *Empty Sky* was the first true solo album Elton John recorded after leaving Bluesology; it also marked the beginning of his long and fruitful collaboration with lyricist Bernie Taupin. *Empty Sky* is quite indicative of the post-Sgt. Pepper's era. With its ambitious arrangements and lyrics, it's clear that John and Taupin intended the album to be a major statement. Though it shows some signs of John's R&B roots, most of the album alternates

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between vaguely psychedelic rock and Taupin and John's burgeoning pop songcraft, capped off by a bizarre reprise of brief moments of all of the songs on the record. There aren't any forgotten gems on Empty Sky, but it does suggest John's potential. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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