

Joni Mitchell – The Hissing of Summer Lawns (1975)

Written by bluelover

Tuesday, 13 October 2009 16:27 - Last Updated Thursday, 23 February 2017 18:13

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1. *In France They Kiss on Main Street* 2. *Jungle Line, The* 3. *Edith and the Kingpin* 4. *Don't Interrupt the Sorrow* 5. *Shades of Scarlett Conquering* 6. *Hissing of Summer Lawns, The* 7. *Boho Dance, The* 8. *Harry's House / Centerpiece* 9. *Sweet Bird* 10. *Shadows and Light*

Joni Mitchell – vocals, acoustic guitar (01, 02, 03, 04, 09), Moog (02), piano (05, 09), keyboards (07), Arp (10), Farfisa (10); cover design, illustration Graham Nash – background vocals (01) David Crosby – background vocals (01) James Taylor – background vocals (01), guitar (06) Robben Ford – electric guitar (01), dobro (04), guitar (08) Jeff Baxter – electric guitar (01) Larry Carlton – electric guitar (03, 04, 05, 09) Victor Feldman – electric piano (01, 05), congas (04), vibes (05), keyboards (06), percussion (06) Joe Sample – electric piano (03), keyboards (08) John Guerin – drums (01, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08), arrangement (06), Moog (06) Max Bennett – bass (01, 05, 06, 07, 08) Wilton Felder – bass (03, 04) The Warrior Drums of Burundi (02) Chuck Findley – horn (03), trumpet (06, 08), flugelhorn (07) Bud Shank – saxophone and flute (03, 06), bass flute (07) Dale Oehler – string arrangement (05)

Joni Mitchell evolved from the smooth jazz-pop of Court and Spark to the radical *Hissing of Summer Lawns*, an adventurous work that remains among her most difficult records. After opening with the graceful "In France They Kiss on Main Street," the album veers sharply into "The Jungle Line," an odd, Moog-driven piece backed by the rhythms of the warrior drums of Burundi -- a move into multiculturalism that beat the likes of Paul Simon, Peter Gabriel, and Sting to the punch by a decade. While not as prescient, songs like "Edith and the Kingpin" and "Harry's House -- Centerpiece" are no less complex or idiosyncratic, employing minor-key melodies and richly detailed lyrics to arrive at a strange and beautiful fusion of jazz and shimmering avant pop. ---Jason Ankeny, AllMusic Review

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