Hot Chocolate – You Sexy Thing The Best Of Hot Chocolate (2012)

CD1: *01 – You Sexy Thing 02 – So You Win Again 03 – Emma 04 – No Doubt About It 05 – Brother Louie 06 – A Child's Prayer 07 – You Could've Been A Lady 08 – Cheri Baby*
play
09 – Disco Queen 10 – I'll Put You Together Again 11 – Every 1 s A Winner 12 – Don't Stop It Now 13 – You'll Always Be A Friend 14 – Man To Man 15 – Mindless Boogie 16 – Heaven Is In The Back Seat Of My Cadillac 17 – Rumours 18 – Love Is Life 19 – I Believe (In Love)
CD2:
01 – It Started With A Kiss 02 – Girl Crazy 03 – What Kinda Boy You Looking For (Girl) 04 – Chances 05 – Love Me To Sleep 06 – Are You Getting Enough Of What Makes You Happy 07 – You'll Never Be So Wrong 08 – I Gave You My Heart (Didn't I) 09 – Tears On The Telephone 10 – Emotion Explosion 11 – You're A Natural High 12 – Makin' Music 13 – Gotta Give Up Your Love 14 – Changing World 15 – Mary-Anne 16 – Losing You
play
17 – Blue Night 18 – Heartache No. 9 19 – Put Your Love In Me
Band personnel Current lineup: Ninja Tom - drummer. Patrick Olive - percussionist / took over bass duties in 1975. Harvey Hinsley - guitarist. Steve Beast -keyboards/guitarist. Andy Smith - keyboards. Kennie Simon - vocalist. Former members: Errol Brown - vocalist / songwriter. Larry Ferguson - keyboards. Tony Wilson - co-producer, songwriter (up to 1975). Brian Satterwhite - - vocalist / bassist (from 1973-?). Ian King - drums (1970–1973) Greg Bannis - vocalist. FiL Straughan - vocalist.

2012 two CD collection from the British R&B band. Led by charismatic singer/songwriter, Errol Brown, Hot Chocolate are without doubt one of the UK's most successful and popular singles bands. The hits started in 1970 and continued right up until 1984 in a remarkable 14 year run that witnessed the chart-topping `So You Win Again,' and such memorable songs as `You Sexy Thing' (which was a Top 10 smash in three separate decades), `Disco Queen,' `Emma,' `No Doubt About It' and `Every 1's A Winner.' This stunning 41-track retrospective features 29 chart hits, including 12 Top 10s. Music Club Deluxe. ---Editorial Reviews

Beginning their career as The Hot Chocolate Band, this R&B, soul, and funk outfit created a reggae version of the John Lennon song, “Give Peace A Chance ... which John apparently loved, as they were instantly signed to Apple Records, and changed their name to simply, Hot Chocolate. While it was the disco era that firmly established this band from the U.K., who charted every year during the 1970’s, a feat that was unheard of, unless you were Elvis Presley or Diana Ross, many of their songs would set the world on fire had they been released today.

This was a serious minded racially integrated group, bringing a U.K. perspective to the table and inspiring the likes of Prince, who’s managed to keep the funky soul scene alive due to Hot Chocolate's ambitious career and musical skill. While Hot Chocolate had a variety of sounds, what held this band together, and spurred them on, was the vocal talent of their Jamaican born frontman and songwriter Errol Brown, who created sensational melodies and very danceable rhythms.

Hot Chocolate was not the Temptations, nor were they James Brown ... they were more of a cohesive rock unit, in the mold of The Doobie Brothers, mixed with a bit of K.C. & The Sunshine Band. Perhaps, and this is my opinion only [having seen Hot Chocolate live], I wish that they could have stretched out the instrumentals a bit, and allowed more soaring solo work, as Sly & The Family Stone had done.

Regardless, Hot Chocolate created a number of masterpieces that will exist for all time. Take the song “You Could’ve Been A Lady,” created and released in two versions, one sounding for all the world like a southern rock classic, and the other, pure funk, due only to the manifestation of an incredible bass line. Yes, most American’s will only know Hot Chocolate for their song “You Sexy Thing,” which while very good, and very danceable, could not hold a candle to tracks such as “Blue Night,” “Mary Anne,” “Emma,” and “Every 1’s A Winner.”

By no means am I suggesting that you’re gonna dig all of their work, but here on their compilation discs, you’re gonna come face to face with a pocketful of tunes that will brighten your day and put a groovy stride in your step. ---Jenell Kesler, discogs.com

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