

Blood Sweat & Tears - Definitive collection (1995)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Spinning Wheel* (4:05) 2. *You've Made Me So Very Happy* (4:15) 3. *God Bless The Child* (5:56) 4. *And When I Die* (4:01) 5. *Smiling Phase* (5:07) 6. *Hi-De-Ho* (4:24) 7. *Lucretia Mac Evil* (3:03) 8. *Fire & Rain* (4:00) 9. *Somethin Comin On* (4:32) 10. *Go Down Gambin* (4:17) 11. *John The Baptist* (3:36) 12. *Lisa Listen To Me* (2:59) 13. *So Long Dixie* (4:27) 14. *Got To Get You Into My Life* (3:20) 15. *I Love You More Than Ever* (5:26) 16. *Katy Bell* (4:27) 17. *Sweet Sadie The Savior* (4:22)

This "Definitive collection" is actually slightly inferior to the "Collection" compilation released by Castle Communications. Here we have 17 tracks taken from the band's second (self titled) album through to "More than ever", their last album with CBS/Columbia. Thus nothing is included from the band's first album which featured Al Kooper, and nothing from "Brand new day" or "Nuclear blues". In fairness, the omission of the later albums is no loss, but Kooper's "Child is the father to man" album is a key part of the BS&T story.

The tracks which appear here are obvious choices, naturally including the excellent singles "Spinning wheel", "You've made me so very happy", and "Hi-de-ho". Those from the later albums will be less familiar, although the cover of the Beatles "Got to get you into my life" demonstrates how the band had moved from jazz rock into R&B as their career progressed.

There is little here to demonstrate the more complex jazz rock experimentation of the second and third albums, but this is more than compensated for by the wonderful voice of David Clayton-Thomas. DC-T came, went away and came back again during the period covered by the compilation, but he features on the majority of the tracks.

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In all, a decent, if rather superficial introduction to the music of Blood Sweat and Tears, but the better option is to obtain their early studio albums. ---Easy Livin, progarchives.com

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