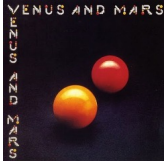


Wings - Venus and Mars (1975)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 07 June 2010 23:12 - Last Updated Thursday, 04 April 2019 21:56

Wings - Venus and Mars (1975)



01. *Venus And Mars* – 1:20
 02. *Rock Show* – 5:30
 03. *Love In Song* – 3:02
 04. *You Gave Me The Answer* – 2:14
 05. *Magneto And Titanium Man* – 3:15
 06. *Letting Go* – 4:31
 07. *Venus And Mars (Reprise)* – 2:05
 08. *Spirits Of Ancient Egypt* – 3:03 (lead vocal by Denny Laine)
 09. *Medicine Jar (Jimmy McCulloch/Colin Allen)* – 3:36 (lead vocal by Jimmy McCulloch)
 10. *Call Me Back Again* – 4:54
 11. *Listen To What The Man Said* – 4:01
 12. *Treat Her Gently - Lonely Old People* – 4:20
 13. *Crossroads (Tony Hatch)* – 0:59
- Bonuses:*
14. *Zoo Gang (Theme from the UK TV series The Zoo Gang, 1974)*– 1:58
 15. *Lunch Box/Odd Sox (B-side of "Coming Up", 1980)* – 3:47
 16. *My Carnival (B-side of Spies "Like Us", 1985)* – 3:56

Personnel:

- Paul McCartney - lead vocals, bass, guitars, keyboards, piano
 - Linda McCartney - keyboards, percussion, vocals
 - Denny Laine - guitars, keyboards, vocals
 - Jimmy McCulloch - guitars, vocals
 - Joe English - drums, percussion
- +
- Geoff Britton - drums (3, 6, 9)
 - Kenneth "Afro" Williams - congas (2)
 - Dave Mason - guitar (11)
 - Tom Scott - saxophone (11)
 - Allen Toussaint - piano (2)

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Band on the Run was a commercial success, but even if it was billed as a Wings effort, it was primarily recorded by Paul, Linda, and Denny Laine. So, it was time to once again turn Wings into a genuine band, adding Joe English and Jimmy McCulloch to the lineup and even letting the latter contribute a song. This faux-democracy isn't what signals that this is a band effort -- it's the attitude, construction, and pacing, which McCartney acknowledges as much, opening with an acoustic title track that's a salute to arena rock, leading to a genuine arena rock anthem, "Rock Show." From that, it's pretty much rocking pop tunes, paced with a couple of ballads and a little whimsy, all graced with a little of the production flair that distinguished Band on the Run. But where that record was clearly a studio creation and consciously elaborate, this is a straightforward affair where the sonic details are simply window dressing. McCartney doesn't really try anything new, but the songs are a little more varied than the uniform, glossy production would suggest; he dips into soft-shoe music hall shuffle on "You Gave Me the Answer," gets a little psychedelic with "Spirits of Ancient Egypt," kicks out a '50s rock & roll groove with "Magento and Titanium Man," and unveils a typically sweet and lovely melody on "Listen to What the Man Said." These are a slight shifts on an album that certainly feels like the overture for the arena rock tour that it was, which makes it one of McCartney's more consistent listens, even though it's possible to scan the song listing after several listens and not recognize any song outside of "Listen to What the Man Said" and the opening medley by title. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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