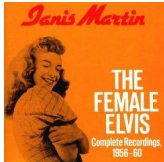


Janis Martin - The Female Elvis: Complete Recordings 1956-60 (1987)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 12 October 2014 15:51 - Last Updated Friday, 27 April 2018 17:19

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01. Drugstore Rock'N Roll (1956) (Janis Martin) - 2:05 02. Will You Willyum (1956) (Carl Stutz, Carl Barefoot) - 1:54 03. Love And Kisses (1957) (Marvin Moore, Bob Davie, Charles Grean) - 1:57 04. My Boy Elvis (1956) (Aaron Schroeder, Claude Demetruis) - 2:07 05. Cracker Jack (1958) (Mark Harris) - 2:04 06. Bang Bang (1958) (Clavelle Isnard) - 1:56 07. Ooby Dooby (1956) (Wade Moore, Dick Penner) - 1:57 08. Barefoot Baby (1956) (Carl Stutz, Carl Barefoot) - 2:11 09. Good Love (1958) (Jesse Stone) - 2:07 10. Little Bit (1956) (Carl Stutz, Carl Barefoot) - 2:09 11. Two Long Years (1957) (Hugh Ashley) - 2:24 12. All Right, Baby (1957) (Dick Glasser) - 1:34 13. Billy Boy, My Billy Boy (1957) (Bob Davie, Marvin Moore) - 2:08 14. Let's Elope Baby (1956) (Albert Clayton Griffin) - 2:02 15. Love Me Love (1979) (Boudleaux Bryant) - 2:04 16. Love Me To Pieces (1957) (Melvin Endsley) - 2:06 17. William (1979) (Winfield Scott) - 2:05 18. Here Today And Gone Tomorrow (1960) (Harold Carr, Matt Dubey) - 2:06 19. Teen Street (1960) (Barnes, Adams) - 1:51 20. Hard Times Ahead (1960) (Barry Mann, Noel Sherman) - 2:14 21. Cry Guitar (1960) (Fredrick Long, Susan Heather) - 2:26 22. Just Squeeze Me (1957) (Lee Gaines, Duke Ellington) - 1:46 23. One More Year To Go (1956) (Boudleaux Bryant) - 2:18 24. Blues Keep Calling (1979) (Janis Martin) - 2:20 25. Please Be My Love (1958) (Don Winters) - 2:10 26. I Don't Hurt Anymore (1957) (Jack Rollins, Don Robertson) - 2:03 27. Half Loved (1957) (Ray Stanley, Jaye Fitzsimmons) - 2:08 28. My Confession (1957) (Marvin Moore, Bob Davie, Charles Grean) - 2:02 29. I'll Never Be Free (1957) (Bennie Benjamin, George Weiss) - 2:00 30. Love Me Love (Cha Cha) (1979) (Boudleaux Bryant) - 2:01

Personnel: - Janis Martin - female lead vocals, guitar (06,17,25,30) - Chet Atkins - electric guitar (01,02,11,14-16,23,24) - Al Chernet - guitar (03,04,07,08,10,22,26-29) - George Barnes - guitar (03-05,07-10,12,13,22,26-29) - Tony Mottola, Danny Peri - guitar (05,09,12,13) - Hank "Sugarfoot" Garland - guitar (06,17-21,25,30) - Jimmy Atkins - guitar (06,17,25,30) - Thomas Grady Martin - rhythm guitar (01,02,14,18-21,23) - Dave Rich - rhythm guitar (11,15,16,24) - Boyce Hawkins - organ (06,17,25,30) - Floyd Cramer - piano (01,02,11,14-16,23,24) - Andy Ackers - piano (03,22,26-29) - Shorty Long - piano (04,07,08,10) - Joe Harnell - piano (05,09,12,13) - George Berg - tenor saxophone (03,22,26-29) - Bob Moore - bass (01,02,06,14,17,23,25,30) - Sam Bruno - bass (03,22,26-29) - Charles Grean - bass (04,07,08,10) - Arnold Fishkin - bass (05,09,12,13) - Thomas Grady Martin - bass (11,15,16,24) - Murray M. "Buddy" Harman - drums (01,02,06,11,14,15-17,23-25,30) - Bunny Shawker - drums (03-05,07-10,12,13,22,26-29) - Bettye McCormick, Jala Divigard, Jim Farmer, Melvin Little Ryan - backing vocals (03,22,26-29) - Bob Miller, Dol Evans, Jerry Duane, Lew Anderson, Marge Murphy - backing vocals (05,09,12,13) - The Jordanares - backing vocals (06,17,25,30)

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- Chet Atkins, Jeff Kluger, Steve Sholes – producers

Thirty songs, and not a loser in the bunch. This little lady rocks -- hard -- and she doesn't start to slow down until 21 songs in. The best is sort of like Elvis' early RCA sides, only better, mixed with some wildness that makes one wonder if Sun Records wouldn't have been a better home for her. As it happens, Martin is a good enough singer that even the slow ballads like "Cry Guitar" and "One More Year to Go" come off well -- she had a rich, strong, slightly throaty voice that would have allowed her to make it in country music, or even pop (check out the Duke Ellington-authored "Squeeze Me") as easily as rock & roll, if that was what she wanted. What's more, she could write songs as well, and that was pretty rare for female performers of the time; her originals here compare pretty favorably with standards like "Ooby Dooby." "Blues Keep Calling" is a hot number in any discography. --- Bruce Eder, Rovi

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