Wes Montgomery - A Day in the Life (1967)

Personnel

Wes Montgomery – guitar
Herbie Hancock – piano
Ron Carter – bass
Grady Tate – drums
Ray Barretto – percussion
Jack Jennings – percussion
Joe Wohletz – percussion
Ray Alonge – French Horn
Phil Bodner – woodwind
Julius Brand – violin
Peter Buonconsiglio – violin
Mac Ceppos – violin
Lewis Eley – violin
Harry Glickman – violin
Harry Katzman – violin
Leo Krucczek – violin
Sylvan Shulman – violin
Gene Orloff – violin
Tosha Samaroff – violin
Jack Zayde – violin
Harry Urbont – violin
Harold Coletta – viola
Emanuel Vardi – viola
George Marge – flute
Joe Soldo – flute
Romeo Penque – flute
Margaret Ross – harp
Alan Shulman – cello
Charles McCracken – cello
Stanley Webb – flute, woodwind

By the time Wes Montgomery recorded this album (his debut for A&M), he was a major name in the pop world. Montgomery's melodic renditions of current pop hits caught on and were played regularly on Top 40 radio. In most cases the guitarist did little more than play the melody, using his distinctive octaves, and it was enough to make him saleable. Of his three A&M recordings, A Day in the Life (the first one) was by far the best and, although the jazz content is almost nil, the results are pleasing as background music. "Windy" was a bit of a hit; the other selections (which find Montgomery backed by muzaky strings arranged by Don Sebesky) include "Watch What Happens," "California Nights," "Eleanor Rigby" and the title cut. ---Scott Yanow, Rovi

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