

The Shirelles – Baby It's You (1962)

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Czwartek, 18 Kwiecień 2019 15:14 -

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A1 Baby It's You 2:40 A2 Irresistible You 2:10 A3 Things I Want To Hear (Pretty Words) 2:41 A4 Big John (Ain't You Gonna Marry Me) 2:21 A5 The Same Old Story 2:20 A6 Voice Of Experience 2:19 B1 Soldier Boy 2:40 B2 A Thing Of The Past 2:38 B3 Twenty One 2:03 B4 Make The Night A Little Longer 2:31 B5 Twisting In The U.S.A. 1:55 B6 Putty In Your Hands 2:37 Vocals – Addie "Micki" Harris, Beverly Lee, Doris Coley, Shirley Owens Guitar – Luther Dixon

When Shirley Owens, Doris Coley, Addie Micki Harris and Beverly Lee got together to sing for a high school talent show in 1957, they had no intentions of becoming professional musicians. However, fate stepped in when classmate Mary Jane Greenberg told her mother, Tiara Records owner Florence Greenberg, about the group. Greenberg signed them to her label, released a single and then sold the label, along with the fledgling group, to Decca Records. Decca soon dropped them, which left Greenberg free to sign them to her new label, Scepter Records. At Scepter, The Shirelles hit their stride, working with the cream of the Brill Building songwriters. One of these songwriters, Luther Dixon, was hired by Greenberg to write for and produce the group and together they developed the group's signature sound. Under his guidance, the Shirelles enjoyed seven Top 20 hits and launched the girl group genre. Released as a single in 1961, *Baby It's You* reached #8 on the pop charts and #3 on the R&B charts. Written by Burt Bacharach, Mack David and Luther Dixon (under the pseudonym Barney Williams), the song has become an enduring classic, covered by The Beatles, Smith and many other artists. It also served as the title track for The Shirelles first album of 1962. *Baby It's You* features 12 outstanding songs, including their single *Soldier Boy* which topped the Billboard Hot 100. Sourced from the original analog session tapes, this Sundazed reissue faithfully reproduces one of the most influential albums of the early 60s (certainly, Barry Gordy would agree). After one listen, you won't want nobody, nobody but The Shirelles. ---Editorial Reviews, amazon.com

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The best songs on here -- the title track, "Big John," "A Thing of the Past," "Make the Night a Little Longer," "Soldier Boy," and "Putty in Your Hands" -- are available on the Rhino best-of double album. Still, it's a pretty solid effort for its day, featuring state-of-the-art orchestral early-'60s New York girl group production and decent songwriting. ---Richie Unterberger, AllMusic Review

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