Dire Straits - Brothers in Arms (1985)

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1. So Far Away 2. Money for Nothing 3. Walk of Life 4. Your Latest Trick 5. Why Worry 6. Ride Across the River 7. Man's Too Strong 8. One World 9. Brothers in Arms Mark Knopfler – guitars, vocals Alan Clark – keyboards Guy Fletcher -Personnel John Illsley - bass, vocals keyboards, vocals Omar Hakim – drums Terry Williams drums[Note 2] + Michael Brecker – tenor saxophone Randy Brecker - trumpet Malcolm Duncan – tenor saxophone Tony Levin – bass Jimmy Neil Jason – bass Dave Plews – horn Jack Sonni -Maelen – percussion Michael Mainieri – vibraphone Sting – backing vocals (2) quitar

Brothers in Arms brought the atmospheric, jazz-rock inclinations of Love Over Gold into a pop setting, resulting in a surprise international best-seller. Of course, the success of Brothers in Arms was helped considerably by the clever computer-animated video for "Money for Nothing," a sardonic attack on MTV. But what kept the record selling was Mark Knopfler's increased sense of pop songcraft -- "Money for Nothing" had an indelible guitar riff, "Walk of Life" is a catchy up-tempo boogie variation on "Sultans of Swing," and the melodies of the bluesy "So Far Away" and the down-tempo, Everly Brothers-style "Why Worry" were wistful and lovely. Dire Straits had never been so concise or pop-oriented, and it wore well on them. Though they couldn't maintain that consistency through the rest of the album -- only the jazzy "Your Latest Trick" and the flinty "Ride Across the River" make an impact -- Brothers in Arms remains one of their most focused and accomplished albums, and in its succinct pop sense, it's distinctive within their catalog. [In 2005 Mercury released a 20th anniversary limited edition version of Brothers in Arms in the Hybrid/SACD format.] --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

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