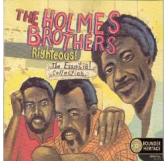


The Holmes Brothers – Righteous: The Essential Collection (2002)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 23 April 2015 16:36 - Last Updated Saturday, 06 February 2021 20:30

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01. *Got Myself Together* 02. *Promised Land* 03. *When Something Is Wrong With My Baby*
04. *Fannie Mae* 05. *The New and Improved Me* 06. *I Surrender All* 07. *Train Song* 08. *None But the Righteous* 09. *Dashboard Bar* 10. *Don't Spare Your Sword* 11. *I've Been a Loser* 12. *Please Don't Hurt Me* 13. *The Final Round* 14. *There Goes My Everything* 15. *There's a Train* 16. *And I Love Her* 17. *Walk in the Light* Sherman Holmes - Bass, Piano, Vocals, Wurlitzer
Wendell Holmes - Guitar, Organ, Piano, Vocals Scott Billington - Percussion Phil Chandler - Organ (Hammond) Jon Cleary - Organ (Hammond) Popsy Dixon - Drums, Vocals Laurence Etkin - Trumpet Anders Gaardmand - Horn Arrangements, Sax (Baritone), Sax (Tenor) Alison Krauss - Fiddle Dan Levin - Trombone Ron Levy - Organ (Hammond) Bob Malach - Sax (Tenor) Tim Quimette - Trumpet James Singleton - Bass (Acoustic) Gib Wharton - Dobro, Lap Steel Guitar, Pedal Steel Lee Allen Zeno - Bass

Andy Breslau described the Holmes Brothers' music as "gospel-infused doo wop funk," which pretty much captures the spirit and synthesis of their style. Combining old R&B, soul, and gospel, brothers Sherman and Wendell Holmes along with Popsy Dixon create a rich sound filled with lovely harmony. The intensity of the group's studio performances evokes a live feel, offering an inkling of what their performances at Lynch's in Manhattan must have sounded like during the '80s. *Righteous!* collects almost 75 minutes of material from the group's four Rounder albums, beginning with *In the Spirit* in 1990 and ending with *Promised Land* in 1997. The album kicks off with a bit of electric blues topped with a healthy dose of soul on "Got Myself Together," a song that jumps out of the gate at a gallop and holds to a steady gait for five minutes. Gospel-drenched pieces like "Promised Land," complete with electric guitar, will have non-believers singing along, while classics like "There Goes My Everything" combine classic soul with a touch of country. One also wouldn't want to miss the Holmes Brothers' takes on Tom Waits' "Train Song" and the Beatles' "And I Love Her." Breslau's liner notes, which travel back to the Holmes Brothers' residency at Lynch's, are both edifying and fun to read. While all of the albums the Holmes Brothers recorded for Rounder are worthy efforts, *Righteous!* offers a solid introduction to anyone who has missed out on their wonderful music. --- Ronnie D. Lankford, Jr., allmusic.com

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