

Climax Blues Band - The Harvest Years 69-72 (1991)

Written by bluesever

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01. Please Don't Help Me 02. Hey Baby, Everything's Gonna Be Alright Yeh Yeh Yeh 03. Everyday 04. Towards The Sun 05. You Make Me Sick 06. Reap What I've Sowed 07. Shake Your Love 08. Looking For My Baby 09. Flight 10. Mole On The Dole 11. That's All 12. Insurance 13. Wee Baby Blues 14. Crazy 'Bout My Baby 15. All Right Blue? 16. Cut You Loose

Following on the spurs of the British Blues Boom at the end of the sixties was The Chicago Climax Blues Band, shortly after shortened to Climax Blues Band, a little bit underrated and often overlooked band with among others a really outstanding guitarplayer Peter Haycock (who left the band in the beginning of the eighties). This album is a compilation of the highlights from their 3 years (EMI) Harvest-label period, in which short time 5 studio-albums saw the daylight, from which all the songs here are culled. The LP dates from 1975 and had 11 songs on it, this is now on CD expanded to 16. There is an ear for everyone. From straight blues ("Please Don't Help Me", the instrumental "Flight") to heavy rock ("Reap What I Sowed", with soaring guitarplay, "You Make Me Sick") till catchy acoustic folk-pop tinged tunes like "Mole on the Dole" and "That's All", which proves that this band is undeserved underestimated. They knew how to write and perform a song.

And also to play this live (hear for yourself on the also excellent "FM/Live" concertalbum, recorded in one take). As a start to get known to this band may serve this compilation. I am sure that upon repeated listening you not only will enjoy this but also make you look out for the original studioalbums which are on CD available (some of which have also bonustracks) and maybe take an interest in their later efforts. This is alltime great music from a great band. They do still exist these days but have only one or two original members, if I am well informed. But from the time way back this album is a fitting document of how good this band actually was. Strongly recommended, even after more than 30 years. --- J. Talsma, amazon.com

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