Ennio Morricone – Once Upon A Time In The West - OST (1969)

1 Once Upon A Time In The West 3:43 2 As A Judgement 3:05 3 Farewell To Cheyenne 2:37 4 The Transgression 4:40 5 The First Tavern 1:38 6 The Second Tavern 1:31 7 Man With A Harmonica 3:28 8 A Dimly Lit Room 5:06 9 Bad Orchestra 2:22 10 The Man 1:00 11 Jill's America 2:45 12 Death Rattle 1:42 13 Finale 4:10 Composed By, Conductor – Ennio Morricone Harmonica [Soloist] – F. De Gemini (tracks: 7,12) Performer – "The Modern Singers" Of Alessandroni (tracks: 1,2,7,11,13) Vocals – Edda (tracks: 1,13) Whistle – A. Alessandroni (tracks: 3)

Arguably a milestone for both director Sergio Leone and his musical cohort Ennio Morricone. After deconstructing the classic American western by way of The Good, the Bad & the Ugly and A Fistful of Dollars, Leone distilled his intentions with 1968's Once Upon a Time in the West. For his part, Morricone framed Leone's meditative camerawork and mythic narrative with a mix of hauntingly spacious pieces and reconfigured snatches of old-timey tunes. Just within the stretch of the first four pieces here, Morricone evokes the endless expanse of the West with a Copland-esque aria (the main title theme), weaves some twisted grit into the showdown theme with loads of guitar fuzz ("As a Judgment"), ingeniously combines whistling and a clippity-clop rhythm for a respite piece ("Farewell to Cheyenne"), and conjures the surreal end of the cowboy mythos via a wonderfully disjointed serial-style number ("The Transgression"). And whether sounding upbeat or stark, Morricone informs it all with the dry and windswept vacancy of the West. Beautiful and stunning. ---Stephen Cook, AllMusic Review

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