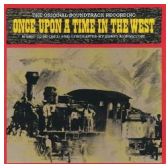


Ennio Morricone – Once Upon A Time In The West - OST (1969)

Written by bluesever (Bogdan Marszałkowski)
Sunday, 26 July 2020 19:54 -

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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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