Scott Hamilton – Remembering Billie (2013)

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01 – When You're Smiling 02 – Foolin Myself 03 – Good Morning Heartache 04 – Them There Eyes 05 – Laughing At Life 06 – You're My Thrill 07 – This Year's Kisses 08 – God Bless The Child 09 – I'll Never Be The Same 10 – If Dreams Come True Musicians: Scott Hamilton - tenor sax Duke Robillard - acoustic guitar Tim Ray - piano Dave Zinno - bass Jim Gwin – drums

The latest project of veteran jazz tenor saxophonist Scott Hamilton has a slight contradictory tone: It's an all-instrumental tribute to one of the greatest vocalists in jazz and pop, Billie Holiday. But when you make your sax sing the way Hamilton can, it totally works.

The session is overseen by in-demand guitarist/producer Duke Robillard. Fronting an acoustic piano trio, Hamilton's lyrical sax creates a full sound that never loses sight of swing and blues traditions. The combo covers mainly Holiday's pre-World War II-era songs including such classic standards as "Them There Eyes," "God Bless the Child" and "Good Morning Heartache."

With Hamilton blowing it hot, cool and sweet, the listener is in for a rare musical Holiday that expertly recalls Lady Day's way with a song.--- Eric Feber, hamptonroads.com

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