

Paul Desmond - Easy Living (1966)

Written by bluesever

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01 - *When Joanna Loves Me* 5:48 02 - *That Old Feeling* 5:49 03 - *Polka Dots And Moonbeams* 5:51 04 - *Here's That Rainy Day* 5:43 05 - *Easy Living* 7:08 06 - *I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face* 4:19 07 - *Bewitched* 6:25 08 - *Blues For Fun* 6:28 09 - *Rude Old Man* 5:42 10 - *Polka Dots And Moonbeams (alternate take)* 6:13 11 - *Bewitched (alternate take)* 7:47 Personnel: Connie Kay - Drums Percy Heath - Bass Eugene Wright - Bass Gene Chericco - Bass Paul Desmond - Alto saxophone Jim Hall – Guitar

Easy Living indeed. Desmond recorded five or six albums in the form of a quartet with Jim Hall, and while "Take Ten" may be the classic, this one is by far the best. With this album, the quartet was (for the most part) him, Jim Hall on guitar, Connie Kay (from the Modern Jazz Quartet) on drums, and Eugene Wright, Desmond's pal from the Dave Brubeck quartet, on bass. One would be hard pressed to find a line up that sounded more comfortable playing together than this one. With this album, Desmond found the perfect match between the cool sound and songs that swing. He throws in a few moody, beautiful tracks, but for the most part has some fun with songs like "That Old Feeling," departing into long, wild (yet, in true Desmond fashion, controlled) solos. Added bonus: Eugene Wright wrote the final number on this album, a bonus track titled "Rude Old Man" and gets his much deserved time in the spotlight with some excellent (and even slightly funky) bass playing. Desmond released a few excellent albums, a few of which I even prefer to this one, but none of them were able to obtain a balance between moody and fun like this Easy Living was. --- koolkatjazz.com

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