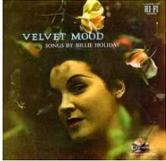Written by bluesever
Thursday, 07 August 2014 21:54 -

Billie Holiday - Velvet Mood (1956)

1 Prelude To a Kiss 2 When Your Lover Has Gone 3 Please Don't Talk About me When I'm Gone 4 Nice Work If You Can Get It 5 I Got a Right to Sing The Blues 6 What's New 7 I Hadn't Anyone till You 8 Everything I Have is Yours   Billie Holiday - vocals Harry "Sweets" Edison - trumpet Benny Carter - alto & tenor sax Barney Kessel - guitar Jimmy Rowles - piano John Simmons - bass Larry Bunker – drums

Billie Holiday was a true artist of her day and rose as a social phenomenon in the 1950s. Her soulful, unique singing voice and her ability to boldly turn any material that she confronted into her own music made her a superstar of her time. Today, Holiday is remembered for her masterpieces, creativity and vivacity, as many of Holiday's songs are as well known today as they were decades ago. Holiday's poignant voice is still considered to be one of the greatest jazz voices of all time.

Despite her lack of technical training, Holiday's unique diction, inimitable phrasing and acute dramatic intensity made her the outstanding jazz singer of her day. White gardenias, worn in her hair, became her trademark.

Long out-of-print, Billie Holiday's brilliant 1956 LP, Velvet Mood, released on Clef (soon-to-be Verve) Records, captures the 41-year-old Holiday backed by a sextet that featured Benny Carter on alto sax and Harry "Sweets" Edison on trumpet. Although hard living had already begun to take its toll on Holiday (who died just three years later), she was still a huge international star at this time, giving sold out concerts at Carnegie hall and touring Europe. 1956 also marked the year that her legendary biography, Lady Sings the Blues was released. --- elusivedisc.com

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