

Harry Connick Jr – Come By Me (1999)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 16 October 2009 20:45 - Last Updated Sunday, 16 November 2014 09:55

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1. *Nowhere With Love* 2. *Come by Me* 3. *Charade* 4. *Change Partners* 5. *Easy for You to Say* 6. *Time After Time* 7. *Next Door Blues [Instrumental]* 8. *Easy to Love* 9. *There's No Business Like Show Business* 10. *Moment With Me* 11. *Danny Boy* 12. *Cry Me a River* 13. *Love for Sale*

By 1999, Harry Connick, Jr. found himself in a curious place. Undoubtedly, he was one of the artists that kick-started the whole neo-swing movement that peaked in the late '90s. However, he was always too serious and traditional -- too much of a musician, really -- to fit in with the likes of the Cherry Poppin' Daddies. Furthermore, he was too much of a veteran. When he was reviving swing, it was in the late '80s, when nobody else believed it could be hip again. Surely, he must have been a little irked when he saw legions of groups that were nowhere near as musically fluent or as knowledgeable as he was cultivate huge followings. So, there was only one solution -- return to big-band swing, after years of attempting some sort of amorphous New Orleans funk and R&B. Of course, he'd probably be offended if anyone suggested that *Come by Me* was actually a response to neo-swing, but it's easy to interpret it that way, especially since he shows what the younger swing groups are missing. Connick knows what makes big bands work. He makes the classics sound fresh and newer songs sound like classics. More importantly, age suits him well; he no longer sounds like a young kid singing his father's music, he sounds natural and inspired. True, he occasionally sounds a bit too close to Sinatra for some tastes, but at least he can really sing, along with knowing how to make a big band swing, which, ironically, not all neo-swing acts can do. That alone makes *Come by Me* a welcome comeback. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

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