

James Taylor Quartet - The Template (2011)

Written by bluesever

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1 *The Template* 2 *Woman* 3 *Home Is Where The Hatred Is* 4 *Autumn River* 5 *Light Up Your Soul* 6 *Pressure Gauge* 7 *Crossing Over* 8 *Why Can't We Get Along* 9 *Lucky Jim* 10 *Loneliness* 11 *Koko* 12 *Song For My Dad* James Taylor – organ Nick Smart – flugelhorn, trumpet Gareth Lockrane – flute Hugh Gledhill – guitar Jim Riley – harmonica John Turrell – vocals Rob Townsend – saxophones Andrew McKinney – bass Adam Betts - drums

The James Taylor Quartet continues its funk, soul-jazz, and acid jazz blend with *The Template*, honoring the group's 25th anniversary and highlighted by a wonderful version of Gil Scott-Heron's "Home Is Where the Hatred Is." ---Steve Leggett, Rovi

"The Template" celebrates JTQ's 25 years of recording. They've been one of the key British bands of their era, and their "Theme From Starsky and Hutch" is one of the ultimate floorfillers. James Taylor is widely regarded as the finest exponent of the Hammond organ on this side of the Atlantic: the masterly Hammond-led funk is distinctive, its light touch contrasts with many of the heavy duty players of the past.

Their first single, a version of Herbie Hancock's theme tune to the art-house classic "Blow Up [DVD]" was championed by NME and John Peel, and their reputation as a superb live act meant that they frequently sold out big venues such as London's Brixton Academy in the early/mid '90s. They also enjoyed success with hit albums such as "Supernatural Feeling" and "In the Hand Of The Inevitable" and continued to be a huge live draw throughout the 1990s and 2000s,

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playing many legendary gigs at Camden's Jazz Cafe.

Their blend of cop-show funk, '60s boogaloo and occasional soulful vocals continues to be massively popular and "The Template" shows the JTQ at the top of their game. The album's key track is a gorgeous, wicked, instrumental version of Gil Scott-Heron's "Home Is Where The Hatred Is", which'll be sure to pick up a lot of club action. Also check the vocal trademark Jazz Funk of "Light Up Your Soul", the full-on jazzy Hammond of "Pressure Gauge". Taylor's more subtle side surfaces on the understated "Koko".

So, would you believe that it been 25 years already? James and his band are firing on all cylinders here as usual, with James himself never sounding better. 11 of the 12 songs here are original compositions, and sounding very classic too, with some featuring the man of the moment John Turrell on vocals. It's a very natural and comfortable unison, with John sounding as superb as we've ever heard him.

After 25 years James is still one of the hardest working men in show business and here's proof of why, if any evidence was needed. ---casabig, amazon.com

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