

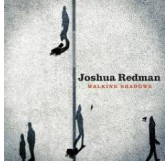
## Joshua Redman - Walking Shadows (2013)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 24 October 2013 16:08 - Last Updated Saturday, 27 December 2014 14:40

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1 *The Folks Who Live on the Hill* (Jerome Kern & Oscar Hammerstein II) 4:00 2 *Lush Life* (Billy Strayhorn) 6:42 3 *Stop This Train* (John Mayer & Pino Palladino) 4:42 4 *Adagio* (J.S. Bach) 3:14 5 *Easy Living* (Leo Robin & Ralph Rainger) 5:31 6 *Doll Is Mine* (Kazu Makino, Amedeo Maria Pace & Simone Maria Pace) 5:55 7 *Infant Eyes* (Wayne Shorter) 5:05 8 *Let It Be* (John Lennon & Paul McCartney) 5:12 9 *Final Hour* (Joshua Redman) 2:42 10 *Last Glimpse of Gotham* (Brad Mehldau) 3:26 11 *Stardust* (Hoagy Carmichael) 5:50 12 *Let Me Down Easy* (Joshua Redman) 4:55 Personnel: Joshua Redman: saxophones; Brad Mehldau: piano; Larry Grenadier: bass; Brian Blade: drums; Laura Frautschi (Concertmistress), Avril Brown, Christina Courtin, Karen Karlsrud, Ann Leathers, Katherine Livolsi, Landau, Joanna Maurer, Courtney Orlando, Yuri Vodovos: violins; Vincent Lioni, Daniel Panner, Dov Scheindlin: viola; Stephanie Cummins, Eugene Moye, Ellen Westermann: cello; Timothy Cobb: bass; Pamela Sklar: flute; Robert Carlisle: French horn; Conducted by Dan Coleman.

Joshua Redman's 2013 album, *Walking Shadows*, is a lush orchestral album featuring the saxophonist backed by a large symphonic ensemble. From Charlie Parker's string recordings in the '50s, to Miles Davis' large-ensemble recordings with Gil Evans in the '60s, to Wynton Marsalis' 1984 album *Hot House Flowers*, there is a long tradition of jazz musicians framing themselves in the warm, classical tones of a string orchestra. Here, Redman positions himself within this continuum with an album that frames his articulate, harmonically sophisticated saxophone style with immaculately produced arrangements from Dan Coleman, Patrick Zimmerli, and pianist Brad Mehldau. Mehldau also appears here as a member of Redman's quartet alongside bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Brian Blade. These are some of the most nuanced, lyrical, and romantic recordings Redman has ever produced. Tracks like his opening take on Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's "The Folks Who Live on the Hill" and Leo Robin and Ralph Rainger's "Easy Living" have a sweeping, cinematic quality that one could easily imagine as the soundtrack to classic film noir. Redman also includes a few of his compositions, including the ruminative "Final Hour" and the torchy "Let Me Down Easy," which perfectly balance his vocal-like saxophone melodies and roiling John Coltrane-influenced improvisations. While most of the album centers around the orchestral arrangements, some

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tracks -- like Redman's cover of John Mayer's "Stop This Train" and the Beatles' "Let It Be" -- are ruminative small-group tracks that should appeal to listeners who enjoyed his quartet side project James Farm. Ultimately, Walking Shadows is a mature, sophisticated album that can stand head to head with the best orchestral jazz albums of any decade. ---Matt Collar, Rovi

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