

Dominique Magloire - Travelin' Light with Billie (2015)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 09 December 2015 17:01 -

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01. *One O'Clock Jump, Pt. 1* (01:36) 02. *Swing Brother Swing* (03:53) 03. *They Can't Take That Away From Me* (03:39) 04. *Travelin' Light* (04:31) 05. *God Bless The Child* (05:39) 06. *Solitude* (04:01) 07. *All Of Me* (05:17) 08. *My Man* (04:49) 09. *I Cried For You* (03:29) 10. *Don't Explain* (03:23) 11. *The Man I Love* (05:03) 12. *Why Was I Born?* (03:07) 13. *Strange Fruit* (03:33) 14. *I Can't Get Started* (03:02) 15. *Fine And Mellow* (08:32) 16. *One O'Clock Jump, Pt. 2* (01:41)

Billie Holiday was born a hundred years ago last week. She died in 1959 at the age of 44, the coroner's report declared cirrhosis of the liver, though the police had her chained to the bed for substance abuse. This troubled soul, left us a rich treasure trove of jazz vocals at their finest.

Growing up on the other side of the pond, I was not exposed to Billie Holiday until I arrived in the US in '91 and shortly afterwards discovered the harrowing song "Strange Fruit" covered by Cassandra Wilson on *New Moon Daughter* 1996. Up until then I had been listening to a steady diet of mainly English music. Intrigued, I subsequently bought all the Lady Day albums I could find on vinyl as well as the entire Cassandra Wilson catalogue on vinyl and CD.

What drew me to Billie Holiday's singing was her cry of anguish, clearly from a tormented soul. The emotion conveyed must surely bring tears to the dead and those who do not appreciate her unique delivery should really book an appointment with their local physician and check if they are still in the realm of the living. It's a bitter sweet delivery clearly drawing on a history of grief & suffering. From the music lovers POV, she had access to some of the finest jazz musicians of the day, so while her vocal delivery is transfixing, the backing musicians were musical stars in their own right who embellished the music with the finest sympathetic accompaniment.

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Travelin' Light with Billie, an album made possible through collaboration with Michel Pastre, a French saxophonist, and participation of the best French jazz musicians. This album was recorded as in the 40s, with the whole team gathered in the same room and recorded live as it were. This is a fabulous album, the musicians are really tight, Dominique Magloire's singing is excellent, and it sounds like she really enjoyed making this album. The album is just so much fun to listen to: nice, big, fat, punchy sound. ---Phillip O'Hanlon, onahighernote.com

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