

Patricia Kaas - Mademoiselle N'a Pas Chanté Que Le Blues (2013)

Written by bluelover

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01. Une fille de l'est 02. C'est la faute à la vie 03. Summertime 04. Mon mec à moi 05. Mne nnavitsya 06. Il me dit que je suis belle 07. Peut-être que peut-être 08. Entrer dans la lumière 09. If You Go Away (Ne quitte pas) 10. Et s'il fallait le faire 11. D'Allemagne 12. Où sont les hommes ? 13. Si tu rêves 14. Je voudrais la connaître 15. Mademoiselle chante le blues 16. Lili Marleen (L'ange bleu) Patricia Kaas – Vocals, Choeurs Jess Bailey - Piano Yvan Cassar - Piano Matt Coleman - Trombone Guida de Palma - Choeurs Mick Feat - Choeurs Nicolas Fizman - Bass Jean-Jacques Goldman - Piano Martin Green - Saxophone Dominique "Doudou" Greffier - Choeurs Reggie Hamilton - Bass Frédéric Helbert - Piano Derrick McIntyre - Bass Robin Millar - Bass, Piano Pascal Obispo - Choeurs Olivier "Diabolo" Paltsou - Harmonica Carole Rowley - Choeurs Mark Smith - Bass Benoît Sourisse - Piano Dark Vador - Choeurs

In 1991 someone (a friend, though I can't remember which one) turned me in to French chanteuse Patricia Kaas' CD "Scene De Vie" and I was hooked. I play that album - a French import - on a regular basis. But, for some reason, I never sought out other albums by her, not realizing she is still making records.

Then I spotted this new compilation - being distributed in the US by Allegro - and I decided to "catch up" with her career. It sure has produced a varied group of productions. Amazon lists 61 (!) different Kaas albums and this 16 track, hour-long album is called (in English) "the best of 25 years". I'm sure that description ("best of") is subjective, but this woman can sing! She also is the only French singer to sell 17 million albums.

With the exception of two tracks (the standard "Summer Time" and the ENGLISH version of the Jacques Brel classic with the English title "If You Go Away") all the songs are in French. The enclosed booklet has the lyrics but, alas, no translations.

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Because these recordings were made over a 25 year period, the sound and production styles vary greatly from track to track, and this is always the problem with a compilation of recordings made over this long a time period. We are, unfortunately, also subjected to a "remix" version of that Brel song, and the drum beat really gets annoying, to say nothing of the fact that Kaas sounds like she is in a closet!

Two full songs are from live concerts and the last track is as well, though it's a 56 minute version of "Lili Marlene", which must have been a concert encore.

So, while I like the album - because it showed me what Kaas has been up to for the last 21 years - it is still uneven. But as a sampler, which may introduce new fans to discover her catalog, it works just fine.

I hope you found this review both informative and helpful. ---Steve Ramm "Anything Phonographic", amazon.com

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