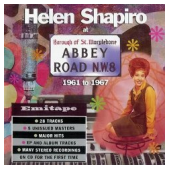
Helen Shapiro - Helen Shapiro at Abbey Road 1961 to 1967 (1998)



01. Don't Treat Me Like A Child (John Schroeder, Mike Hawker) - 2:33
02. You Don't Know (John Schroeder, Mike Hawker) - 3:11
03. Walkin' Back To Happiness [Take 2 + Studio Conversation] (John Schroeder, Mike Hawker) - 2:46
04. Walkin' Back To Happiness [Take 13 Master] (John Schroeder, Mike Hawker) - 2:30
05. Kiss 'N' Run (Norrie Paramor, Bunny Lewis) - 2:07
06. I Wanna To Be Happy (Vincent Youmans, Irving Caesar, Harbach) - 2:18
07. Let's Talk About Love (Norrie Paramor, Bunny Lewis) - 1:54
08. Tell Me What He Said (Jeff Barry) - 2:45
09. Little Miss Lonely (John Schroeder, Mike Hawker) - 2:54
10. A Teenager Sings The Blues (Bennett, Tepper) - 3:47
11. I Can't Say No To Your Kiss [Take 4 B/D + Take 5 + Studio Conversation] (Pomus, Spector) - 2:09
12. Sometime Yesterday (Westlake) - 2:54
13. I Don't Care (Norrie Paramor, Newel) - 2:30
14. Basin St. Blues (Spencer Williams) - 3:33
15. Every One But The Right One (Cole, Gamble, Horton) - 2:34
16. Keep Away From Other Girls (Burt Bacharach, Hilliard) - 2:36
17. A Dozen Other Boys [Take 4 B/D + Take 5 + Conversation] - 2:10
18. Queen For Tonight (Raleigh, Wayne) - 2:09
19. Time And Time Again (John Schroeder, Mike Hawker) - 2:15
20. Look Who It Is (John Schroeder, Mike Hawker) - 2:12
21. Fever (Eddie Cooley, Mick Davonport) - 2:23
22. Look Over Your Shoulder (D.Thomas, Barry Richards) - 2:44
23. It's In His Kiss (Rudy Clark) - 1:55
24. I Wish I'd Never Loved You (Ivor Raymonde, Mike Hawker) - 2:37
25. Shop Around (Smokey Robinson, Berry Gordy, Jr.) - 2:44
26. Keep Your Hands Off My Baby (Carole King, Gerry Goffin) - 2:20
27. You're My Remedy (Smokey Robinson) - 2:56
28. I'm Going Out (The Same Way I Came In) - 2:45

Helen Shapiro began her singing career as a 14 year old in 1961. Hearing her voice on the first cut from Helen Shapiro at Abbey Road: 1961-1967, "Don't Treat Me Like a Child," one would never believe it. She sounds confident and as assured as someone who had been in the business for 20 years. Shapiro had some big hits in the early days of her career: "You Don't Know," "Tell Me What He Said," and the bouncy "Walkin' Back to Happiness." Her early style is very similar to artists like Timi Yuro or Gene Pitney: ultrapoppy musical backing, slightly fluffy songs, and very soulful vocals. She also sounds quite good in a brassy jazz vein; there are some good examples here such as her knockout rendition of "I Want to Be Happy" and her sultry take on "Basin St. Blues." As the decade progressed Shapiro (and everyone who wasn't from Liverpool) found herself shunted off to the fringe. She kept on making great records: a powerhouse version of "Fever," the Drifters-influenced "Look Over Your Shoulder," and the heartbreaking and soulful "I Wish I'd Never Loved You" to name a few. These tracks were all from 1964, the year she seems to have broken away from the formula pop of her first records and branched out into girl-group sounds and generally took a grittier approach. She started covering, quite credibly, Motown tracks like "Shop Around" and also began dipping into Brill Building songbooks, covering tunes like "Keep Your Hands off My Baby" by Gerry Goffin and Carole King. Unfortunately this collection gives this period less coverage than her early hitmaking years. The five or six songs they trot out just leave one wishing for more. The disc ends with the powerful one-two punch of two unreleased tracks: the pounding girl-group shout of "You're My Remedy" and the dramatic string-filled "I'm Going Out (The Same Way I Came In)." These songs give Dusty Springfield, Sandie Shaw, and Lulu a run for their money. It is too bad her career ran out of gas and she pretty much dropped out of sight. One can lament what might have been or curse the powers that were for mismanaging her so fully, but it is a waste of time. Better to just enjoy the music she was able to release. This disc does a fine job of summing up Shapiro's career and is an essential item for any fan of girl pop singers and girl groups. ---Tim Sendra, AllMusic Review

Abbey Road Studios is a recording studio located at 3 Abbey Road, St John's Wood, City of Westminster, London, England. It was established in November 1931 by the Gramophone Company, a predecessor of British music company EMI, its present owner. Apart from the facility's use as a recording studio, the premises have also been used to remaster many of the classical music recordings made at Kingsway Hall. It is most notable for being the venue in the 1960s for innovative recording techniques adopted by The Beatles, Badfinger, Pink Floyd and others. At the end of 2009, the studios came under threat of sale to property developers, but the studio received historic site status from the British government in 2010 to protect it.

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