

Joan Baez - Diamonds & Rust (1975)

Written by bluelover

Thursday, 10 June 2010 15:35 - Last Updated Monday, 20 February 2017 13:01

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01. *Diamonds & Rust* (Joan Baez) - 4:45
02. *Fountain Of Sorrow* (Jackson Browne) - 4:28
03. *Never Dreamed You'd Leave In Summer* (Stevie Wonder, Syreeta Wright) - 2:45
04. *Children And All That Jazz* (Joan Baez) - 3:06
05. *Simple Twist Of Fate* (Bob Dylan) - 4:43
06. *Blue Sky* (Richard Betts) - 2:46
07. *Hello In There* (John Prine) - 3:05
08. *Jesse* (Janis Ian) - 4:26
09. *Winds Of The Old Days* (Joan Baez) - 3:55
10. *Dida* (Joan Baez) (duet with Joni Mitchell) - 3:25
11. *Medley: I Dream of Jeannie* (Stephen Foster) / *Danny Boy* (Frederick Weatherly) - 4:10

- Joan Baez – acoustic guitar (01,05,07,08,09), moog & ARP synthesizers (01), horn solo (08), vocals
- +
- Joni Mitchell - vocals (10)
- Wilton Felder - bass (01,04,06,08)
- Reinie Press - bass (02,03,05,07,09)
- Jim Gordon - drums (01,02,03,04,05,06,07,08,09)
- Larry Carlton - electric guitar (01,02,03,04,05,06,08,09), acoustic guitar (02,06)
- Dean Parks - electric guitar (01,04,05,06,09), acoustic guitar (02,03,07)
- Joe Sample - electric piano (01,02,03,04,05,09), Hammond organ (06,07)
- David Paich - electric harpsichord (01), acoustic piano (06,08)
- Red Rhodes - pedal steel (02,06,07,09)
- Gordo - percussion (02,04,05,06,07)
- Larry Knechtel - acoustic piano (03,05,09,11), electric piano (07)
- Malcolm Cecil - moog & ARP synthesizers (03)
- Hampton Hawes - acoustic piano (04)
- Tom Scott - flute (04)

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With the Vietnam War winding down, Joan Baez, who had devoted one side of her last album to her trip to Hanoi, delivered the kind of commercial album A&M Records must have wanted when it signed her three years earlier. But she did it on her own terms, putting together a session band of contemporary jazz veterans like Larry Carlton, Wilton Felder, and Joe Sample, and mixing a wise selection from the work of current singer-songwriters like Jackson Browne and John Prine with pop covers of Stevie Wonder and the Allman Brothers Band, and an unusually high complement of her own writing. A&M, no doubt recalling the success of her cover of the Band's "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down," released her version of the Allmans' "Blue Sky" as a single, and it got halfway up the charts. But the real hit was the title track, a self-penned masterpiece on the singer's favorite subject, her relationship with Bob Dylan. Outdoing the current crop of confessional singer/songwriters at soul baring, Baez sang to Dylan, reminiscing about her '60s love affair with him intensely, affectionately, and unsentimentally. It was her finest moment as a songwriter and one of her finest performances, period, and when A&M finally released it on 45, it made the Top 40, propelling the album to gold status. But those who bought the disc for "Diamonds & Rust" also got to hear "Winds of the Old Days," in which Baez forgave Dylan for abandoning the protest movement, as well as the jazzy "Children and All That Jazz," a delightful song about motherhood, and the wordless vocals of "Dida," a duet with Joni Mitchell accompanied by Mitchell's backup band, Tom Scott and the L.A. Express. The cover songs were typically accomplished, making this the strongest album of Baez's post-folk career. ---William Ruhlmann, All Music Guide

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