

Carpenters – The Carpenters (1971)

Written by bluelover

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01. *Rainy Days And Mondays* (Paul Williams, Roger Nichols) - 3:36
02. *Saturday* (Richard Carpenter, John Bettis) - 1:18
03. *Let Me Be The One* (Paul Williams, Roger Nichols) - 2:23
04. *(A Place To) Hideaway* (Randy Sparks) - 3:38
05. *For All We Know* (Fred Karlin, Robb Wilson, Arthur James) - 2:34
06. *Superstar* (Leon Russell, Bonnie Bramlett) - 3:47
07. *Druscilla Penny* (Richard Carpenter, John Bettis) - 2:14
08. *One Love* (Richard Carpenter, John Bettis) - 3:23
09. *Bacharach/David Medley* - 5:24 including:
 - 9a. *Knowing When To Leave*
 - 9b. *Make It Easy On Yourself*
 - 9c. *(There's) Always Something There To Remind Me*
 - 9d. *I'll Never Fall In Love Again*
 - 9e. *Walk On By*
 - 9f. *Do You Know The Way To San Jose*
10. *Sometimes* (Henry Mancini, Felice Mancini) - 2:49

Personnel:

- Karen Carpenter - female vocals, drums
- Richard Carpenter - male vocals, keyboards
- Joe Osborn - bass
- Bob Messenger - bass, reeds
- Douglas Strawn, Jim Horn - reeds
- Hal Blaine – drums

The Carpenters' radio-friendly soft rock virtually defined the genre in the early 1970s, and this album -- their third full-length -- was the group's ace card. Following on the heels of the wildly successful *Close to You*, *Carpenters* features more breezy melodies marked by rich

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arrangements and beautiful lead vocals, courtesy of siblings Richard Carpenter and Karen Carpenter, respectively.

The record is most notable for two of the duo's strongest and best-loved singles. "Rainy Days and Mondays," written by soft pop gods Paul Williams and Roger Nichols, is a bittersweet pop masterpiece fleshed out by Richard's string orchestrations and smoothly produced backing vocals, while Leon Russell and Bonnie Bramlett's "Superstar," from its melancholic verse to its dramatic chorus, is equally hard to resist. (Both songs showcase Karen's sultry alto.) The rest of the album includes Richard's bubble-gum pop originals, another Williams-Nichols tune ("Let Me Be the One"), and a medley of Burt Bacharach-Hal David tunes. Even more commercially streamlined than its predecessors, Carpenters is a classic of early-'70s pop. ---Rovi

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