

## Carla Bruni – No Promises (2006)

Written by bluelover

Tuesday, 13 October 2009 13:59 - Last Updated Tuesday, 02 August 2016 08:37

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1. *Those Dancing Days Are Gone* 3:41 2. *Before The World Was Made* 3:51 3. *Lady Weeping At The Crossroads* 3:36 4. *I Felt My Life With Both My Hands* 2:55 5. *Promises Like Pie-Crust* 2:33 6. *Autumn* 3:25 7. *If You Were Coming In The Fall* 3:32 8. *I Went To Heaven* 2:48 9. *Afternoon* 2:07 10. *Ballade At Thirty-Five* 3:03 11. *At Last The Secret Is Out* 3:11  
Carla Bruni - Guitar (Classical), Keyboards, Vocal Percussion, Vocals Laurence Allalah - Cello  
Louis Bertignac - Bass, Congas, Drums, E-Bow, Flute, Guitar, Harpsichord, Keyboards,  
Mellotron, Mixing, Organ, Percussion, Piano, Sitar, Strings, Tabla, Tuba Pierre DeMarty - Piano  
Cyril Denis - Bass Hervé Koster - Drums Antoine Massoni - Contrabass Charles Pasi -  
Harmonica Paco Sery - Bass, Cymbals, Drums, Hi Hat, Percussion

After the runaway success of her charming, folksy first album, *Quelqu'un M'a Dit*, Carla Bruni's sophomore effort takes a more difficult route and sees her setting canonical works by such poets as Yeats and Emily Dickinson to music. The lines "Wrapping that foul body up/In as foul a rag" in Yeats' "Those Dancing Days Are Gone" are delivered almost winsomely, where in fact the word "foul" should be allowed to drag, and to weigh down the rest of the line. Metered verse cannot fit this sort of verse-verse-chorus model. Of course, an album must be judged on its musical merits, and the overall mixture of rhythm and pedal steel guitars, with a touch of harmonica here and there, is a serviceable foil to Bruni's smoky voice. Although this impersonal set of disparate poems is often set to incongruous arrangements, the doo wop piano-and-guitar jam on Dickinson's "If You Were Coming in the Fall" is a highlight, lending itself oddly well to Bruni's sauce. ---Caspar Salmon, Rovi

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