Joe Cocker – Hard Knocks (2010)



1 Hard Knocks 3:24 2 Get On 3:27 3 Unforgiven 4:16 4 The Fall 3:50 5 So It Goes 3:21 6 Runaway Train 3:27 7 Stay The Same 4:41 8 Thankful 4:00 9 So 3:55 10 I Hope 4:48 Joe Cocker - Vocas Jeff Babko - Trombone Jennifer Bailey - Choir/Chorus Stephanie Bentley - Vocals (Background) Stevie Blacke - Cello, Viola, Violin Sherree Brown - Vocals (Background) Tom Bukovac - Guitar (Electric) Mabvuto Carpenter - Choir/Chorus, Vocals (Background) Matt Chamberlain - Drums Chris Chaney - Bass Ashley Cleveland - Vocals (Background) Dorian Crozier - Drums Kara DioGuardi - Choir/Chorus, Composer Erica Dowd - Choir/Chorus Cleto Escobedo - Saxophone Dorian Ford - Choir/Chorus Josh Freese - Drums Kenny Greenberg - Guitar (Electric) Nomisha Jackson - Choir/Chorus Renee Jackson - Choir/Chorus Shawntae Jackson - Choir/Chorus Kim Keys - Vocals (Background) Ron King - Trumpet Greg Morrow Drums Jamie Muhoberac - Keyboards Steve Nathan - Synthesizer, Wurlitzer Ray Parker, Jr. - Guitar Tim Pierce - Guitar Matt Serletic - Keyboards Joel Shearer - Guitar Judson Spence - Vocals (Background) Robyn Troup - Choir/Chorus, Vocals (Background) Niomisha Wilson - Choir/Chorus Glenn Worf - Bass Reese Wynans - Piano

Teaming up with Matt Serletic, a producer who made his name via his work with Collective Soul and especially Matchbox Twenty, Joe Cocker comes up with a clean, shiny machine on Hard Knocks. Despite Cocker's trademark soulful rasp, this isn't an especially warm album. It's bright and bold, as hard and shiny as stainless steel, but there isn't a meanness to it: it's professional to its core, each note polished til it gleams, not one song outside of Cocker's wheelhouse. He pours his passion in, which may not be enough to liven up this buttoned-down upper-crust soul, but it is enough to keep things pleasant. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

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Written by bluelover Wednesday, 24 December 2014 15:07 - Last Updated Monday, 20 February 2017 21:48

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