Spencer Davis Group – I’m A Man (1967)

1. I'm A Man 2. Every Little Bit Hurts 3. Searchin' 4. I Can't Stand It 5. Dimples play *6. Look Away 7. Georgia On My Mind 8. My Babe 9. I Can't Get Enough Of It 10. On The Green Light 11. Stevie's Blues 12. Midnight Train 13. Watch Your Step 14. You Must Believe Me 15. Strong Love 16. Hey Darling 17. Waltz For Lumumba 18. Please Do Something* play *19. Let Me Down Easy 20. Stevie's Groove*

Personnel: Spencer Davis (vocals, guitar); Steve Winwood (vocals, keyboards); Pete York (vocals, drums); Muff Winwood (vocals, bass).

The Spencer Davis Group may be the most underrated group in the British Invasion. The band had a tight, swinging sound, a nice balance between guitars and keyboards, and a tasty selection of musical influences - not to mention rock's greatest white-soul singer (Stevie Winwood). Their albums featured some of the best British blues and R&B, along with pop-rock to rival what the Beatles were doing at the same time (this was pre-"Sgt. Pepper," after all). Perhaps one day the SDG will finally get their due. ---Steven R. Seim, amazon.com

Stevie Winwood and Muff Winwood had left the Spencer Davis Group just a few months before the summer 1967 release of their second U.S. album, which nonetheless was entirely comprised of songs done by the original lineup. Like their first U.S. album, Gimme Some Lovin', it was a more or less arbitrary assortment of songs that had been recorded by the band at various points in the mid-'60s. And again, the big hit, "I'm a Man," was a classic soul-rock group original that outclassed everything else on the record. Otherwise it was standard British R&B-rock that varied from average to very good. The standouts were their covers of John Lee Hooker's "Dimples" and the relatively little-known American soul tunes "I Can't Stand It" and

"Look Away." The cooking Stevie Winwood-penned instrumental "On the Green Light" had dynamic organ and blues guitar. The 2001 CD reissue on Sundazed adds add bonus tracks from the same era, including some of their best efforts: the percolating cover of "Watch Your Step," the anguished original blues ballad "Hey Darling," "Let Me Down Easy," "Strong Love," and the instrumental "Waltz for Lumumba," which anticipates Traffic with its unusual percussion and jazzy accents. ---Richie Unterberger, allmusic.com

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