

Tommy Bolin – The Ultimate – The Best of Tommy Bolin (1989)

Written by bluesever

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CD 1 1. *Sail On* 2. *Cross the River* 3. *See My People Come Together* 4. *Showbizzy* 5. *Alexis* 6. *Standing in the Rain* 7. *Spanish Lover* 8. *Do It* 9. *Quadrant 4* 10. *Train* 11. *Time to Move On* CD 2 1. *Golden Rainbows* 2. *Nitroglycerine* 3. *Gettin' Tighter* 4. *Owed to "G"* 5. *You Keep on Moving* 6. *Wild Dogs* 7. *Dreamer* 8. *People, People* 9. *Teaser* 10. *Sweet Burgundy* 11. *Shake the Devil* 12. *Brother, Brother*

Musicians: Tommy Bolin - Guitar, Keyboards, Vocals Norma Jean Bell - Percussion, Saxophone Bobby Berge - Drums Buddy Caine - Guitar Robbie Chamberlain - Drums, Vocals Billy Cobham - Drums David Coverdale - Vocals Rafael Cruz - Percussion Henry E. Davis - Bass John Faris - Flute, Keyboards Sammy Figueroa - Percussion David Foster - Keyboards Jim Fox - Drums Candy Givens - Harmonica, Vocals David Givens - Bass, Vocals Bobbye Hall - Percussion Jan Hammer - Keyboards Glenn Hughes - Bass, Vocals Earl Johnson - Guitar Terry Juric - Bass Roy Kenner - Vocals Jon Lord - Keyboards Reggie McBride - Bass, Vocals Alphonse Mouzon - Conductor, Drums Ian Paice - Drums Dale Peters - Bass, Vocals Jerry Peters - Keyboards Jeff Porcaro - Drums David Sanborn - Saxophone Buzz Shearman - Vocals Stanley Sheldon - Keyboards Leland Sklar - Bass Mark Stein - Keyboards, Vocals Bill Wade - Drums

Although guitarist Tommy Bolin died well before his time, he left a wide variety of scattered recordings behind (as both a session musician and permanent member of several rock bands). One of the more versatile guitarists of all-time, Bolin touched upon many different styles - blues rock, heavy metal, jazz fusion, and serene ballads, which are all on display on 1989's 2-CD boxset, *The Ultimate*. In addition to the music, the set comes with a large, gorgeous booklet chock full of pictures, plus a very detailed and informative biography. Disc 1 chronicles Bolin's early years, and while it contains several standouts (the amazing instrumental "Quadrant 4" with Billy Cobham, The James Gang's "Alexis" and "Standing In the Rain," etc.), the selections by his first band, Zephyr, and as a hired hand with a Zep-clone band called Moxy, have not aged well. Disc 2 proves to be more consistent, including tracks with jazz drummer Alphonse Mouzon ("Golden Rainbows," "Nitroglycerin"), as part of Deep Purple's final '70s line-up ("Gettin' Tighter," "Owed to G"), and as a solo artist ("Dreamer," "Teaser," "Sweet Burgundy," "Shake the

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Devil," etc.). Although the set was out-of-print by the late-90's, 'The Ultimate' serves as a solid introduction to the talents of the great Tommy Bolin. ---Greg Prato, allmusic.com

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