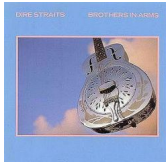


Dire Straits - Brothers in Arms (1985)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 11 October 2009 09:58 - Last Updated Thursday, 25 January 2018 14:53

Dire Straits - Brothers in Arms (1985)



1. *So Far Away* 2. *Money for Nothing* 3. *Walk of Life* 4. *Your Latest Trick* 5. *Why Worry*
6. *Ride Across the River* 7. *Man's Too Strong* 8. *One World* 9. *Brothers in Arms*
Personnel Mark Knopfler – guitars, vocals Alan Clark – keyboards Guy Fletcher –
keyboards, vocals John Illsley – bass, vocals Omar Hakim – drums Terry Williams –
drums[Note 2] + Michael Brecker – tenor saxophone Randy Brecker – trumpet
Malcolm Duncan – tenor saxophone Neil Jason – bass Tony Levin – bass Jimmy
Maelen – percussion Michael Mainieri – vibraphone Dave Plews – horn Jack Sonni –
guitar Sting – backing vocals (2)

Brothers in Arms brought the atmospheric, jazz-rock inclinations of *Love Over Gold* into a pop setting, resulting in a surprise international best-seller. Of course, the success of *Brothers in Arms* was helped considerably by the clever computer-animated video for "Money for Nothing," a sardonic attack on MTV. But what kept the record selling was Mark Knopfler's increased sense of pop songcraft -- "Money for Nothing" had an indelible guitar riff, "Walk of Life" is a catchy up-tempo boogie variation on "Sultans of Swing," and the melodies of the bluesy "So Far Away" and the down-tempo, Everly Brothers-style "Why Worry" were wistful and lovely. Dire Straits had never been so concise or pop-oriented, and it wore well on them. Though they couldn't maintain that consistency through the rest of the album -- only the jazzy "Your Latest Trick" and the flinty "Ride Across the River" make an impact -- *Brothers in Arms* remains one of their most focused and accomplished albums, and in its succinct pop sense, it's distinctive within their catalog. [In 2005 Mercury released a 20th anniversary limited edition version of *Brothers in Arms* in the Hybrid/SACD format.] --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

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