

The Doors – The Soft Parade (1969/2009)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 01 August 2011 18:39 - Last Updated Saturday, 27 January 2018 09:36

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01. *Tell All The People* (Robby Krieger) – 3:19 02. *Touch Me* (Krieger) – 3:11 03. *Shaman's Blues* (Jim Morrison) – 4:47 04. *Do It* (Morrison/Krieger) – 3:08 05. *Easy Ride* (Morrison) – 2:40 [play](#) 06. *Wild Child* (Morrison) – 2:36 [play](#) 07. *Runnin' Blue* (Krieger) – 2:26 08. *Wishful Sinful* (Krieger) – 2:56 09. *The Soft Parade* (Morrison) – 8:38 + 10. *Touch Me (40th Anniversary Remix)* - 3:16 11. *The Soft Parade (40th Anniversary Remix)* - 9:36

Bass – Doug Lubahn, Harvey Brooks Congas – Reinol Andino Drums – John Densmore
English Horn – Champ Webb Fiddle – Jimmy Buchanan Guitar – Robby Krieger Keyboards – Ray Manzarek
Mandolin – Jesse McReynolds Mastered By [For This Compact Disc] – Steve Hoffman
Orchestrated By – Paul Harris Saxophone – Curtis Amy Trombone – George Bohanon Vocals – Jim Morrison

The album met with some controversy among fans and critics due to its inclusion of brass and string instrument arrangements, as opposed to the 1969 was a tumultuous year for the The Doors. The main incident which caused their collective headache happened in Miami in March when vocalist Jim Morrison was arrested for allegedly exposing himself during a concert. Consequently, many major promoters began cancelling shows. The group, which had been a top international pop/rock coming into the year, selling out venues such as New York's Madison Square Garden, suddenly found themselves scrambling to get gigs. In the midst of all this came the release of their fourth album *The Soft Parade*, which contained a radically different sound for the Doors and faced harsh criticism because of it. But when you remove all the fog surrounding it, *The Soft Parade* is a diverse, entertaining, and totally unique album of a great American band at a musical crossroads.

Recording for the album began in November 1968. From these initial sessions came a very successful Top 5 single (“*Touch Me*”/”*Wild Child*” in December 1968). In fact, more than half of *The Soft Parade*'s material was released on singles prior to the album's release in July of 1969, something totally unique for any Doors album. As Morrison struggled with substance abuse and erratic behavior, guitarist Robby Krieger stepped up and wrote half the material for the album

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including all four singles. Producer Paul Rothchild decided to enhance the group's sound with the inclusion of brass and string arrangements, which was off-putting to many rock purists but (in this reviewer's opinion) made for very interesting fusion with Morrison's poetry and subject matter.

In fact, while the year was harmful for the band's career momentum, it may well have been the height of The Door's creativity. Further evidence of this can be found in the recent release of outtakes of unfinished songs. "Whiskey, Mystics and Men" is similar to the track "My Wild Love" from the previous album *Waiting for the Sun*, but this time Morrison's poetic chant is complemented by a full band arrangement led by Ray Manzarek's harpsichord. "Push Push" is a jazzy Latin instrumental jam featuring Manzarek on piano and drummer John Densmore. Originally released as a 'B Side' of a single, "Who Scared You" is a good pop tune with a bluesy swing, some funky horn arrangements, and a cool solo by Krieger. ---classicrockreview.com

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