Holmes Brothers - State Of Grace (2007)



- 1. Smiling Face Hiding A Weeping Heart
- 2. Close The Door
- 3. (What's So Funny 'Bout) Peace, Love And Understanding?
- 4. Gasoline Drawers
- 5. I Can't Help It If I'm Still In Love With You (with Rosanne Cash)
- 6. Bad Moon Rising
- 7. Three Gray Walls
- 8. If I Had A Boat
- 9. Those Memories Of You (with Joan Osborne)
- 10. I Want You To Want Me
- 11. Ain't It Funny What A Fool Will Do
- 12. Standing In The Need Of Love
- 13. I've Just Seen The Rock Of Ages (with Levon Helm)
- 14. God Will

Glenn Patscha (vocals, guitar, accordion, piano, organ, pump organ, background vocals); Wendell Holmes (vocals, guitar); Levon Helm (vocals, mandolin, drums, snare drum); Popsy Dixon (vocals, drums, snare drum, percussion); Amy Helm, Joan Osborne, Fiona McBain, Catherine Russell (vocals, background vocals); Rosanne Cash, Sherman Holmes (vocals); Chris Bruce, Craig Street, John Leventhal (guitar); Larry Campbell (mandolin, fiddle); Byron Isaacs (upright bass, background vocals); Colby Rose Street (background vocals).

The Holmes Brothers do what they do supremely well, taking all sorts of music and making it into gospel -- a sort of musical equivalent of alchemy. There's more of it here, plenty of their own material, but with some absolutely glorious covers. They utterly re-imagine Cheap Trick's perky "I Want You to Want Me" as a piece of '50s gospel, make country-soul from "I Can't Help It If I'm Still in Love with You" (with a great vocal from Rosanne Cash), and do delicious things to a pair of Lyle Lovett tunes. It's good to hear so many covers, actually, not because their own material is weak (anything but!), but rather because they have a special sense of style and a way to extract things from a song that you'd never imagined, as they do with the chestnut "Bad

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Moon Rising." With a crack band -- and a real tip of the hat goes to multi-instrumentalist Larry Campbell -- they're in top form here, and a few guests, like Levon Helm and Joan Osborne, help keep everything down-home and funky. The Holmes Brothers continue their series of small triumphs here. --- Chris Nickson, allmusic.com

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