

Elizabeth Cotten - Freight Train and Other North Carolina Folk Songs and Tunes (1989)

Wpisany przez bluesever
Środa, 14 Maj 2014 15:58 -

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1. *Wilson rag* 2. *Freight train* 3. *Going down the road feeling bad* 4. *I don't love nobody* 5. *Ain't got no honey baby now* 6. *Graduation march* 7. *Honey baby your papa cares for you* 8. *Vastopol* 9. *Here old rattler here / Sent for my fiddle sent for my bow (Sent for my fiddle sent for my son) / Georgia Buck* 10. *Run...run / Mama your son done gone* 11. *Sweet bye and bye / What a friend we have in Jesus* 12. *Oh babe it ain't no lie* 13. *Spanish Flang Dang* 14. *When I get home* Elizabeth Cotton – guitar, vocals

Recorded in 1957 and early 1958 by Mike Seeger, *Freight Train and Other North Carolina Folk Songs and Tunes* collects the influential debut sides cut by a then-62-year-old Elizabeth Cotten; even decades after their first release, they remain a veritable primer in the art of finger-picked style guitar playing. The quaint, homespun quality of the material -- much of it recorded at Cotten's home with her grandchildren looking on in silence -- adds immensely to its intimacy and warmth; the sound quality varies wildly from track to track, but the amazing instrumental work shines through regardless on tracks like the opening "Wilson Rag" and the now-standard "Freight Train." --- Jason Ankeny, Rovi

What can I say? Elizabeth Cotten was one of the best guitar players of all time and almost no one knows about her. I have enormous respect for all the great guitarists from all genres of modern music and to my ears no one comes close, except maybe Mississippi John Hurt, to her fluid and gentle approach to the guitar. Even the great John Fahey was in awe of her natural talent on their shared instrument. And to think this was recorded in her bedroom instead of a studio gives this disc a refreshing sound, just like she was sitting on her bed and playing just for you. Great just to listen to and essential to anyone who is a fan of acoustic guitar playing at its finest.

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Freight Train is not just a classic song but it sounds like it has always been here like the mountains and the sky. There are stories of the Grateful Dead whenever they were passing through the area she lived in always making it an essential stop to visit her to talk and play with this mostly unknown treasure. I love this disc and everything about it. Essential and highly recommended. --- R. Cousineau, amazon.com

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