Bettye LaVette - Things Have Changed (2018)

1. Things Have Changed 06:56 2. It Ain't Me Babe 05:30 3. Political World 04:03 (feat. Keith Richards) 4. Don't Fall Apart On Me Tonight 05:07 5. Seeing The Real You At Last 05:07 6. Mama, You Been On My Mind 03:46 7. Ain't Talkin' 05:40 8. The Times They Are A-Changin' 05:08 9. What Was It You Wanted 04:42 (feat. Trombone Shorty) 10. Emotionally Yours 05:24 11. Do Right To Me Baby (Do Unto Others) 03:36 12. Going, Going, Gone 04:05 Bettye LaVette - vocals Larry Campbell - guitar Pino Palladino - bass Leon Pendarvis - keyboards

Three time Grammy nominee Bettye LaVette is no mere singer. She is not a song writer, nor is she a "cover" artist. She is an interpreter of the highest order. Bettye is one of very few of her contemporaries who were recording during the birth of soul music in the 60s and is still creating vital recordings today. To quote the late, great George Jones: "Bettye is truly a 'singer's singer'." ---bettyelavette.com

Legendary Soul singer Bettye LaVette takes on the songs of Bob Dylan with her new album Things Have Changed, released by Verve Records on 30 March.

Things Have Changed is the iconic singer's tenth album and first album on a major label in nearly thirty years, and she tackles Dylan's songs with the grit and experience that makes her one of the greatest living soul singers. Things Have Changed spans more than five decades of Dylan songs, from 1964's immortal 'The Times They Are A-Changin' up to 'Ain't Talkin',' the epic final track on his 2006 album Modern Times.

“Other people write songs, but he writes vignettes, more prose than poetry,” Bettye LaVette says of Bob Dylan. I didn’t find his words to be pretty so much as they are extremely practical or extremely logical. He can work things like ‘go jump off a ledge’ into a song.”

Things Have Changed sees Dylan’s songs seriously transformed: “I had never really listened to ‘It Ain’t Me Babe,’” she says, “But I had to make it more dismissive—not fast and hard, but like a Jimmy Reed tune. And ‘The Times They Are A-Changin,’ I had to flip that all the way around, so we worked up the groove on a beat box. That just made it extremely surprising.”

To pull off these transformations, LaVette needed a producer who was up to the challenge, and, through Executive Producer Carol Friedman, she found the perfect collaborator in Steve Jordan, former drummer in David Letterman’s house band, who has worked with everyone from Chuck Berry to John Mayer. “Steve was absolutely brilliant,” she says. “He remembers everything he has ever heard in his entire life, and he was able to interpret for the musicians everything I said to him.”

The album’s title track is also its first single. It initially premiered on Rolling Stone Country, who said of the track: “It’s a foreboding song…and LaVette rips into it with bluesy grit, as though she’s unashamed of her own confessions.” Grammy nominated singer Bettye LaVette has been in show business for nearly six decades. Her first single ‘My Man – He’s A Lovin’ Man’ was released on Atlantic Records in 1962, when she was only 16 years old. She continued recording until her resurgence came in the early 00s with a series of albums of interpretations, and in

2008 she wowed the audience at the Kennedy Center Honors ceremony with a heart-wrenching rendition of The Who’s ‘Love Reign O’er Me.’ Her voice is like no other, and taking on the tricky canon of one of the most substantial songwriters alive is no small feat – but if anyone can match the heart of Bob Dylan, it’s Bettye LaVette. ---Tim Peacock, udiscovermusic.com

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