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Hadda Brooks - Jump Back Honey: The Complete Okeh Sessions (1997)



1 Jump Back, Honey 2 Dreamin' And Cryin' 3 My Song 4 If You Love Me (Really Love Me) 5 I'm Still In Love 6 I Don't Mind 7 You Let My Love Get Cold 8 All Night Long 9 Time Was When 10 Trust In Me 11 Remember 12 When I Leave The World Behind 13 Somewhere In That Direction 14 I Went To Your Wedding 15 He's Coming Home 16 Brooks Boogie Hadda Brooks Piano, Primary Artist, Vocals Abie Baker Bass Eddie Barefield Clarinet Howard Biggs Piano Teddy Bunn Guitar James Cannady Guitar Don Costa Arranger, Conductor Bill Jones Drums Taft Jordan Trumpet Ted Kelly Trombone Leroy Kirkland Arranger, Conductor Grachan Moncur II Bass Kelly Owens Piano Sam "The Man" Taylor Sax (Tenor) Fred Williams Sax (Baritone) Marty Wilson Drums

She was best known as a boogie-woogie piano player in the late 1940s, but this first-time CD reissue focuses on Hadda Brooks' brilliantly sophisticated, laidback vocal material in the 1950s. These songs don't carry the dirgelike sentiments of most blues, but more of a euphoric look at life and love. There are rocking dancers such as "Jump Back Honey" and "Brooks Boogie" among tasteful ballads such as "I Went To Your Wedding" and saucy midtempos like "Time Was When." ---Bil Carpenter, AllMusic Review

Tim Hauser, Manhattan Transfer, aired an AM broadcast a couple years back in which he featured artists of bygone musical genres. After listening to one or two songs by Hadda Brooks I bought two of her CDs. Both were quite listenable, acknowledging the fact each spotlighted performances given in her later years.

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Finally I purchased "Jump Back Honey...", performances from which were obviously recorded in her younger years. The title track is rather catchy in its own offbeat way. The two boogie woogie piano pieces fit in nicely with the other vocal performances.

I especially like Track 12, "When I leave This World Behind" for its very wistful sentiment, the type of expression so devoid in much of today's music. Track 11, Irving Berlin's "Remember" receives a similar treatment and sets the listener up nicely for Track 12.

There is a certain beauty and wholesomeness throughout all the vocal numbers presented, which is not unlike the feeling one gets in looking at the CD cover photo of Ms. Brooks. Her love for the music she creates as well as for the audience she entertains is apparent throughout the entire CD.

I feel that finally when Ms. Brooks "left this world behind" she took all her beauty and talent to a place on high where those who now surround her will forever more be privileged to receive her God-given talent. God simply would not create such a joy only eventually to end it forever. Something tells me it would have been a privilege to have met her in this lifetime -- that's just how her music affects me. ---Patrick J. Ryan, amazon.com

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