

Roy Eldridge - Montreux '77 (1977)

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A1 Between The Devil And The Deep Blue Sea 9:11 A2 Gofor 6:33 A3 I Surrender Dear 10:33 B1 Joie De Roy 8:52 B2 Perdido 6:45 B3 Bye Bye Blackbird 7:24 Roy Eldridge - trumpet Oscar Peterson - piano Niels Pederson - bass Bobby Durham - drums

Eldridge's final recording as a leader is a real gem. Although his chops were no longer in prime form, he was still pushing himself to the limit. With a brilliant rhythm section egging him on (pianist Oscar Peterson, bassist Niels Pedersen, and drummer Bobby Durham), Eldridge still went for the high notes (and generally hit them) during this exciting set from the 1977 Montreux Jazz Festival. Although the musicians did not know it at the time, the last two songs ("Perdido" and "Bye Bye Blackbird") were a perfect ending to a brilliant career. This dramatic CD reissue is highly recommended. ---Scott Yanow, AllMusic Review

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