

Let It Be - Black America Sings Lennon, McCartney & Harrison (2016)

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1. Aretha Franklin – Eleanor Rigby 02:34 2. The 5 Stairsteps – Dear Prudence 03:32 3. Earth, Wind & Fire – Got To Get You Into My Life 04:02 4. Mary Wells – Do You Want To Know A Secret 02:37 5. Four Tops – The Fool On The Hill 03:26 6. Fats Domino – Lovely Rita 02:30 7. Nina Simone – Here Comes The Sun 03:32 8. Arthur Conley – Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da 02:58 9. The Supremes – A World Without Love 02:43 10. Junior Parker – Tomorrow Never Knows 03:24 11. Randy Crawford – Don't Let Me Down 03:56 12. The Undisputed Truth – With A Little Help From My Friends 04:24 13. Screamin' Jay Hawkins – A Hard Day's Night 02:27 14. Ike & Tina Turner – She Came In Through The Bathroom Window 02:32 15. Maceo & All The King's Men – For No One 03:36 16. Gary "US" Bonds – It's Only Love 03:06 17. Dionne Warwick – We Can Work It Out 02:31 18. The Temptations – Hey Jude 03:31 19. Boyz II Men – In My Life 02:31 20. Ella Fitzgerald – Savoy Truffle 02:46 21. Isaac Hayes – Something 11:42 22. Bill Withers – Let It Be 02:35

A sequel to Ace's 2011 compilation *Come Together: Black America Sings Lennon & McCartney*, the 2016 set *Let It Be: Black America Sings Lennon, McCartney and Harrison* expands upon its predecessor, finding space for selections from the '80s and even the 2000s (nevertheless, most of these 22 songs are from the '60s and '70s) plus songs from George Harrison too.

"Something" is indeed here, presented in an expansive, seductive 12-minute rendition from Isaac Hayes, and its presence suggests just how far-reaching *Let It Be* is. Hayes sits alongside Ella Fitzgerald's funky version of "Savoy Truffle," an unexpected combination of singer and song that finds its match in Nina Simone's moodily elegant "Here Comes the Sun," not to mention Little Junior Parker's slow, trippy version of "Tomorrow Never Knows." Such delights are rampant on *Let It Be*. Only a handful of cuts adhere to the original arrangements, but even those put a distinctive personality on the tunes: Earth, Wind & Fire funkify "Got to Get You Into My Life," Fats Domino rolls through "Lovely Rita," and Arthur Conley gives the ska of "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da" some grit. More than its predecessor, *Let It Be* stands as a testament to both the songbook of the Beatles and the imaginative interpretations of black America. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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