Joan Baez - Diamonds & Rust (1975)



- 01. Diamonds & Rust (Joan Baez) 4:45
- 02. Fountain Of Sorrow (Jackson Browne) 4:28
- 03. Never Dreamed You'd Leave In Summer (Stevie Wonder, Syreeta Wright) 2:45
- 04. Children And All That Jazz (Joan Baez) 3:06
- 05. Simple Twist Of Fate (Bob Dylan) 4:43
- 06. Blue Sky (Richard Betts) 2:46
- 07. Hello In There (John Prine) 3:05
- 08. Jesse (Janis Ian) 4:26
- 09. Winds Of The Old Days (Joan Baez) 3:55
- 10. Dida (Joan Baez) (duet with Joni Mitchell) 3:25
- 11. Medley: I Dream of Jeannie (Stephen Foster) / Danny Boy (Frederick Weatherly) 4:10
- Joan Baez acoustic guitar (01,05,07,08,09), moog & ARP synthesizers (01), horn solo (08), vocals
- Joni Mitchell vocals (10)
- Wilton Felder bass (01,04,06,08)
- Reinie Press bass (02,03,05,07,09)
- Jim Gordon drums (01,02,03,04,05,06,07,08,09)
- Larry Carlton electric guitar (01,02,03,04,05,06,08,09), acoustic guitar (02,06)
- Dean Parks electric guitar (01,04,05,06,09), acoustic guitar (02,03,07)
- Joe Sample electric piano (01,02,03,04,05,09), Hammond organ (06,07)
- David Paich electric harpsichord (01), acoustic piano (06,08)
- Red Rhodes pedal steel (02,06,07,09)
- Gordo percussion (02,04,05,06,07)
- Larry Knechtel acoustic piano (03,05,09,11), electric piano (07)
- Malcolm Cecil moog & ARP synthesizers (03)
- Hampton Hawes acoustic piano (04)
- Tom Scott flute (04)

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With the Vietnam War winding down, Joan Baez, who had devoted one side of her last album to her trip to Hanoi, delivered the kind of commercial album A&M Records must have wanted when it signed her three years earlier. But she did it on her own terms, putting together a session band of contemporary jazz veterans like Larry Carlton, Wilton Felder, and Joe Sample, and mixing a wise selection from the work of current singer-songwriters like Jackson Browne and John Prine with pop covers of Stevie Wonder and the Allman Brothers Band, and an unusually high complement of her own writing. A&M, no doubt recalling the success of her cover of the Band's "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down," released her version of the Allmans' "Blue Sky" as a single, and it got halfway up the charts. But the real hit was the title track, a self-penned masterpiece on the singer's favorite subject, her relationship with Bob Dylan. Outdoing the current crop of confessional singer/songwriters at soul baring, Baez sang to Dylan, reminiscing about her '60s love affair with him intensely, affectionately, and unsentimentally. It was her finest moment as a songwriter and one of her finest performances, period, and when A&M finally released it on 45, it made the Top 40, propelling the album to gold status. But those who bought the disc for "Diamonds & Rust" also got to hear "Winds of the Old Days," in which Baez forgave Dylan for abandoning the protest movement, as well as the jazzy "Children and All That Jazz," a delightful song about motherhood, and the wordless vocals of "Dida," a duet with Joni Mitchell accompanied by Mitchell's backup band, Tom Scott and the L.A. Express. The cover songs were typically accomplished, making this the strongest album of Baez's post-folk career. ---William Ruhlmann, All Music Guide

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