

Usher – Looking 4 Myself (2012)

Wpisany przez bluelover

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01 – *Can't Stop Won't Stop* (Feat. Will.I.Am & Keith Harris) 02 – *Scream* 03 – *Climax* 04 – *I Care For U* 05 – *Show Me* 06 – *Lemme See* (Feat. Rick Ross) 07 – *Twisted* (Feat. Pharrell) 08 – *Dive* 09 – *What Happened To U* (Feat. Noah Shebib) 10 – *Looking 4 Myself* (Feat. Luke Steele) 11 – *Numb* (Feat. Axel Hedfors, Steve Angello, Sebastian Ingrosso, Alessandro Lindblad, Klas Ahlund) 12 – *Lessons For The Lover* 13 – *Sins Of My Father* 14 – *Euphoria* (Feat. Steve Angello, Sebastian Ingrosso, Axel Hedfors) 15 – *I.F.U.* 16 – *Say The Words* (Feat. Surahn Sid) 17 – *2nd Round* 18 – *Hot Thing* (Feat. A\$ap Rocky)

Usher was pushing his "revolutionary pop" concept as early as 2010, when he told StyleList, "I love that people are talking about the new hair, it represents who I am now and the creative movement of revolutionary pop." Prior to the release of his seventh studio album, he was doing it more than ever, quite likely encouraged by a Top Five Hot 100 collaboration with mainstream dance kingpin David Guetta ("Without You"). With rare exception, revolutionary pop as presented on *Looking 4 Myself* sounds just like contemporary pop-oriented R&B, or European dance-pop, or some combination of the two. Compared to Usher's previous album, this is weighted more heavily toward dance-pop, much of which is functional and well made but unremarkable. The set is front-loaded with two such numbers. "Can't Stop Won't Stop," a typically savvy production from will.i.am and partner Keith Harris, incorporates flashes of commercial dubstep and a synthesized version of that escalating wordless melody from Billy Joel's "Uptown Girl." The Max Martin/Shellback-produced "Scream," a Top 20 hit by the time the album was released, is a pummeling dancefloor track with a mindless seduction theme. Next is the stellar Diplo collaboration "Climax," a bittersweet, 100% modern ballad that creates tension with space. It's more moving than what precedes and follows, but there are other highlights and a couple pleasantly surprising twists. "Lemme See," featuring Rick Ross, is a slithering, low-slung jam -- one of Usher's best. The easygoing yet emotive title track, a cross between new wave and soft rock with an appearance from Luke Steele (the Sleepy Jackson, *Empire of the Sun*), could pass for a cover of a missing track from the back half of the first N.E.R.D. album. Ironically, that's the singer's boldest move. While Usher's talent as a vocalist adds some depth to the producer-driven field of dance music, he's more of a creative force when he's working with slower, soul-rooted material. There's no shame in riding the wave, especially when

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you can do it better than anyone else. Calling it revolutionary is disingenuous. ---Andy Kellman, AllMusic Review

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