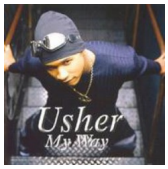
Usher - My Way (1997)



1 You Make Me Wanna... 3:39 2 Just Like Me (Featuring – Lil' Kim) 3:27 3 Nice & Slow (Backing Vocals – Jagged Edge) 3:47 4 Slow Jam (Featuring – Monica, Backing Vocals – Babyface) 4:43 5 My Way 3:34 6 Come Back (Backing Vocals – Manuel Seal, Trey Lorenz Featuring – Jermaine Dupri) 3:47 7 I Will 3:54 8 Bedtime (Backing Vocals – Shanice, Babyface) 4:45 9 One Day You'll Be Mine (Backing Vocals – Manuel Seal, Trey Lorenz, Trina Broussard) 3:24 10 You Make Me Wanna..(Extended Version) 5:20 Babyface - Bass, Drum Programming, Keyboard Programming, Keyboards, Producer, Vocals (Background) Trina Broussard - Vocals (Background) Jermaine Dupri - Composer, Executive Producer, Mixing, Nathan East - Bass Jagged Edge - Vocals (Background) Lil' Kim - Vocals Trey Lorenz - Vocals (Background) Monica - Vocals (Background) Greg Phillinganes - Piano Manuel Seal, Jr. - Producer, Vocals (Background) Shanice - Vocals (Background) Usher - Primary Artist, Vocals, Vocals (Background)

Usher proved that he had a strong, soulful voice with his self-titled debut, but he fulfilled his potential on his second record, My Way. What makes Usher distinctive from his urban loverman peers is the fact that he doesn't oversing; he simply delivers his songs soulfully. Unfortunately, he falls prey to uneven material, just like any of his peers, but there are more strong songs on My Way than many contemporary R&B albums from the late '80s. Both Jermaine Dupri and Babyface contribute seamless productions and fine songs; respectively, "You Make Me Wanna..." and "Bedtime" are their best ballad contributions. Even if the ballads are usually seductive and romantic, cuts like the funky "Just Like Me," which features a cameo from Lil' Kim, might make you wish Usher didn't play it cool all of the time. And while it's refreshing to hear a hip-hop/urban R&B album clock in at a reasonable running time, it would have been nice if the tenth track was something other than a remix of "You Make Me Wanna..." Nevertheless, it's a strong second effort that showcases Usher at his best. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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