

## Moody Blues - The Magnificent Moodies (1965)

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01. *I'll Go Crazy* (James Brown) – 2:08
02. *Something You Got* (Chris Kenner) – 2:49
03. *Go Now!* (Larry Banks, Milton Bennett) – 3:09
04. *Can't Nobody Love You* (James Mitchell) – 3:59
05. *I Don't Mind* (James Brown) – 3:24
06. *I've Got A Dream* (Jeff Barry, Ellie Greenwich) – 2:49
07. *Let Me Go* (Denny Laine, Mike Pinder) – 3:11
08. *Stop* (Denny Laine, Mike Pinder) – 2:02
09. *Thank You Baby* (Denny Laine, Mike Pinder) – 2:26
10. *It Ain't Necessarily So* (George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin, Heyward) – 3:18
11. *True Story* (Denny Laine, Mike Pinder) – 1:42
12. *Bye Bye Bird* (Sonny Boy Williamson II, Willie Dixon) – 2:47

### Personnel:

- \* Denny Laine - guitars, harmonica, vocals
- \* Mike Pinder - piano, organ, vocals
- \* Clint Warwick - bass, vocals
- \* Ray Thomas - percussion, flutes, vocals
- \* Graeme Edge - drums, percussion
- +
- \* Elaine Caswell – percussion

The pre-psychedelic Moody Blues were represented in England by this album, which is steeped in American soul. The covers include songs by James Brown, Willie Dixon, and Chris Kenner, plus the chart-busting "Go Now" (originally recorded by Bessie Banks), interspersed with a brace of originals by lead singer/guitarist Denny Laine and keyboardist Mike Pinder, and one Jeff Barry/Ellie Greenwich number, "I've Got a Dream." The shouters, like "I'll Go Crazy" and "Bye Bye Bird," will be the big surprises, showcasing the rawest sound by the group, but "I've

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"Got a Dream" shows a lyrical, harmony-based sound that is vaguely reminiscent of the Four Tops (which is ironic, as that group later cut a single of the latter-day Moody Blues original "So Deep Within You"), while "Thank You Baby," a Laine/Pinder original, offers them doing a smooth, dance-oriented number with some catchy hooks. The group's sound is good and loud, and Laine was a phenomenal singer, though the band lacked the charisma and built-in excitement of such rivals as the Rolling Stones and the Animals. This album is more interesting than its American equivalent, but also not as good, since it leaves off such single sides as "Steal Your Heart Away" and the Pinder/Laine "From the Bottom of My Heart," the latter being the best side this version of the group ever recorded. ---Bruce Eder, AllMusic Review

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