



Come On Up To The House: Women Sing Waits

Artists on Tom Waits and the Songs They Reimagined

"What an honor to sing a song like 'Time'. Many years ago, I recorded it just for myself, just for the pleasure of singing those words. Maybe I seeded the notion in the deepest part of the creative ether, the place from where these songs travel through Tom. For whatever reason and from whatever source, I'm just thrilled to be a part of this album. There is no other songwriter in the world, past or future, like Tom Waits." – Rosanne Cash

"Tom Waits is not only a master songwriter, singer, and storyteller, but also one of the great visionaries of our time. He is what we all want to be – a fully integrated artist who seemingly sees the whole picture at once and knows how to present it so that we do too. My sister and I were thrilled to participate in this tribute to him and his songs. 'Old '55' is a classic, filled with romance, hope, and also just enough tension and melancholy to remind us that all relationships have a beginning, middle, and end. And boy, that melody." – Allison Moorer

"I love 'Ruby's Arms' because it makes me think of people in my family. I started singing it years ago because of that and it moves me in a way that helps me to look a little deeper at what might be thought of as weakness in someone. I do think there are good hearted people everywhere that don't know how to stay within the bounds of what is considered normal life, who for whatever reason feel frightened and suffocated in one place for too long even if that place is where love is... like it's protection of their real nature to keep moving and have the solitude of being a stranger wherever they are. To me this is a strong and compassionate story about that struggle." – Patty Griffin

"Downtown Train" is a perfectly written song about longing. Waits paints a beautiful image of someone who is just slightly out of reach, and he always has a brilliant way of writing poetic pop songs, which is no easy task. His language makes me want to see someone I long for on a downtown train. That's why it's easy to sing Tom Waits songs, because you can easily imagine yourself as one of his characters." – Courtney Marie Andrews

"We recorded this arrangement by our dear friend and producer Andrew Stonestreet. When this project came up and Andrew suggested this particular song I was stopped dead in my tracks. "Well the moon is broken and the sky is cracked." Yep. "The only thing you can see is all that you lack." Yep. And the invitation follows "Come on up to the house." The house is where someone's made a hot plate of dinner for you. It's where you can take off your coat and stay awhile. It's where you can sit and enjoy conversations with friends. You belong there. It's not that being there can fix any of your problems, but come on up. I love that it doesn't offer a fix to anything, because sometimes there is no fix. And maybe the song is talking more about a metaphysical state of mind to exist in. A way of thinking that is grounded in peace despite the chaos in your life. However you hear it, there's a place you belong and the song invites you there." – Natalie Schepman of Joseph

"The first time I heard Tom Waits I was disturbed. 'Who was this man growling and screeching at me? Was he trying to drive me away?' But I was intrigued the way one would be if they spotted a beast in the wild. I maintained a safe distance and began to track this writhing animal into the woods. Eventually, I heard him crying out in pain and I got struck with compassion and grew more interested in him. 'Was he walking wounded? What was he going to do next?' And then, all at once, I heard him make the purest sound that a living thing could make. The sound of hope. That's what 'You Can Never Hold Back Spring' sounded like. It resonated so clear inside me that I soon found myself in awe of this beautiful creature, this man. Years later, I was delighted when Warren Zanes asked me if there was a song I might like to record for a Tom Waits tribute album he was producing." – **Kat Edmonson**

"I remember driving through the hills somewhere when I first heard this song. Someone played it for me and said, 'You just have to hear the final verse. It's the best verse ever written.' I think I agree. It was actually terrifying to cover this because I love the original version so much. It's an incredibly beautiful recording. I just wanted to put my spin on my favorite Waits song so I could be part of this record too."
– **Angie McMahon on "Take It With Me"**

"Tom Traubert's Blues' is an especially beautiful and heartbreakin tune for me. The chorus breathes life into the song with its inviting melody and simple lyrics about just wanting to dance with someone who is also hurting. It speaks of being lost and isolated, and makes me feel less alone." – **Sharon Silva of The Wild Reeds**

For more information about **Come On Up To The House: Women Sing Waits**,
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