



Uncle Tupelo “**89/93 An Anthology**” Columbia Legacy

The twenty-one cuts on “**Anthology**” charts the recordings, circa 1989 – 1993, of a band from Belleville, Illinois who made a trio albums for the New York independent, Rockville Records, and a fourth and final disc for Sire/Reprise, and then went their separate ways. The first line-up of the band had coalesced in 1986. From the paint blistering, distorted guitar thrash of the John Fogerty cover “Effigy,” through to the gentle acoustic licks of the opening Carter Family penned “No Depression” every musical shade that the Tupelo’s *wore* is represented here. Lest you think that Uncle Tupelo was a *covers* band, the only other non-band compositions on this collection are “I Wanna Be Your Dog” [the Stooges anthem composed circa 1969] and the traditional song, “Moonshiner.” The initial line-up of the band Jeff Tweedy [Golden Smog, Wilco], Jay Farrar [Son Volt and solo] and Jeff Heidorn decided that they would share all songwriting credits. As Farrar succinctly points out in the liner booklet, *“The fact that Jeff and I each wrote songs separately and essentially shared a band to record them was the primary reason the band split.”* After recording their third, Peter Buck produced, album, “**March 16 – 20, 1992**,” one of the finest roots rock albums of the nineteen-nineties, Heidorn departed. Messrs. Tweedy and Farrar are credited with penning all of the *post Heidorn* compositions. Very much in the lyrical style of Springsteen [and his native New Jersey], Tweedy and Farrar wrote about their lives in rural Illinois. Fourteen cuts source from the aforementioned quartet of band albums, the remaining material being from demo tapes, non-album track singles, *live* EP tracks plus the previously unreleased tracks “I Wanna Be Your Dog” and “Outdone.” This disc is merely the harbinger of things to come, since the intention is to reissue all of Uncle Tupelo’s albums as enhanced editions. And the poor old record collector, the real music fan, takes the sucker punch once more !!!!!!! Of course the real irony is that the mega giant Sony Corporation is the label that is now involved. Way back when, Farrar and Tweedy would not have been able to breach front desk security, let alone end up playing their instruments in one of Sony’s recording studios. Life.....

Folkwax Rating 7 out of 10

Arthur Wood

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