



Randy Meisner “**Love Me Or Leave Me Alone**” Sonic Past Music

According to the credits Randy Meisner the bass playing farm boy from Nebraska, co-produced this album with Joey Stec, former member of The Millennium and later The Blues Magoos. Moving to California in the late nineteen-sixties, following a short stint with country rock purveyors Poco, Randy joined The Eagles and contributed to their multi-platinum selling recordings up to “**Hotel California**” [1976].

This seventeen song – primarily studio - outing was released Stateside a few years back, and has now received a European release, on Sonic Past via Voiceprint, concurrent with the albums “**Live In Dallas 1982**” and “**Meisner, Swan And Rich**” – the latter featuring one time Kristofferson sideman Billy Swan and material principally penned by Charlie Rich Jr. According to the fold over liner insert these tracks were recorded across three decades [70’s to 90’s] and compiled by Stec. On first hearing, track-on-track, there’s a distinct variance in the quality/prominence of Meisner’s vocal. Cuts end abruptly, “In A Minute” fades in the middle of the line “*It’s so hard to see the truth...*,” while nigh on **forty** seconds of silence follows “Midnight Rain.” Adding insult to injury, if played on computer the latter title – track 5 - is missing, leaving subsequent track titles ‘*onscreen*’ out of sequence with the liner. As for the liner credits Toto keyboardist Steve Porcaro is listed as Porcro, while the closing track bears the erroneous title “While The Damn Breaks.” All in all, I’d say the presentation is sloppy beyond belief.

As for ‘the music,’ Meisner penned three songs of which “One Less Fool” features yet another abrupt ending, while the nine co-writes include a live version of the 1975 # 4 U.S. Pop hit for The Eagles “Take It To The Limit,” and finally there’s a handful of cover songs. Replete with big electric guitar, scarf waving riffs, married to mostly run of the mill lyrics, suffice to say this collection is for those wishing to wallow in Meisner’s past glories. As to why he agreed to the release of these out-takes?

Folkwax Score 4 out of 10.

Arthur Wood.

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