



Bruce Robison "It Came From San Antonio" Premium Recordings

The sound of a cheesy nineteen-sixties [*once upon a time*, Augie Meyers driven] organ and excited chatter and hand claps at the outset of "It Came From San Antonio" are followed by mention, in the opening line, of "*Huey says there's been an invasion, come from a faraway shore,*" leaving little doubt that the opening track of this mini album is a musical tribute to the late Doug Sahm [d. 1999] and his 'partner in crime' record producer Huey Meaux. It was Meaux who named Sahm's band the Sir Douglas Quintet and produced their 1965 # 13 U.S. Pop hit "She's About A Mover." Midway through the track Eleanor Whitmore's fiddle injects some country soul licks.

Robison falls back on conventional Texas storytelling fare in the 'finding love on the road' themed ballad "When It Rains" – "*She'd sing in a voice that you'd just want to hear when it rains,*" while, c/w backing vocal from Bruce's wife Kelly Willis, the down-at-heel narrator in "Lifeline" expresses a wish for better times. At the outset of the piano led, bittersweet ballad "My Baby Now" – and the positive flip side of "Lifeline" - Robison's lyrics mentions "*Lascivious grins, smokes and jokes and gin*" and "*Scraped scalps and scars, nights behind bars, Larceny and little white lies*" and then the narrator adds "*Yeah I heard about all of them, from all of your friends, But that was then, you're my baby now.*"

The memory filled "Anywhere But Here" – "*Fourteen and wondering where my life begins, My brother's softly sleeping, the rain upon the tin, Love was still a mystery, the summer days so slow, Hauling hay and double plays, it was a lifetime ago*" - was co-written with Monte Warden [The Wagoneers], while "What Makes You Say" is a love song co-written with Jack Ingram that features Bruce in duet with Eleanor Whitmore. The EP closes with the enigmatically titled "23A," wherein Bruce pays tribute to songs "*about love, about hope, about death, about fears, about laughs, about tears*" and goes on to reflect upon the joy music brings to us humans during our allotted 'three score and ten.'

On the mini-album Robison is ably supported by his regular Austin players - George Reiff [bass], Eddie Cantu [drums] and Andrew Nafziger [guitar] - while the support players include the aforementioned Whitmore, Sweeny Tidball [piano, keys] and the string section of Melissa Becker [viola], Warren Hood [violin] and Brian Standefer [cello].

Folkwax Score 7 out of 10

Arthur Wood.

Kerrville Kronikles 07/07.