

Alice Babs

Ulf Wesslén, organ

1. Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen 4'32" (Trad.)
2. It's A-Me, O Lord 2'10" (Trad.)
3. Bye and Bye 2'21" (Trad.)
4. Sometimes I Feel like a Motherless Child 3'11" (Trad.)
5. I'm A-Rolling through an Unfriendly World 2'48" (Trad.)
6. I've Been in the Storm so Long 4'42" (Trad.)

1. I Like the Sunrise 2'37" (Duke Ellington) Tempo Music Inc.
2. Freedom I & III 2'33" (Duke Ellington) Tempo Music Inc.
3. Somebody Cares 3'08" (Duke Ellington) Tempo Music Inc.
4. Thank You for Everything 4'11" (Billy Strayhorn — Edmund Anderson) Tempo Music Inc.
5. Something about Believing 5'58" (Duke Ellington) Tempo Music Inc.
6. Solitude 4'06" (Duke Ellington) Tempo Music Inc.

Somebody Cares

One who does is certainly Alice Babs.

About the naive but genuine Negro Spirituals, about the religious songs, words as well as music, by Duke Ellington.

And she is convincing: all these songs express more or less her own faith.

The Negro Spirituals appealed to her when only a teen-ager, partly because they were related to jazz. Louis Armstrong guided her, first by means of records and, later on, by a personal acquaintance.

Duke Ellington had been her teacher long before they actually met. She collected his records, she knew every arrangement, every phrase. Working with him she impressed him, as a musician, as a human being. Several songs in his Sacred Concerts were composed especially for her.

On the day of Duke Ellington's funeral, when Alice rendering of "Heaven" filled the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York, she was approached by Edmund Anderson who gave her his lyrics "Thank You for Everything", dedicated to Duke and set to Billy Strayhorn's "Lotus Blossom". Also Duke's friend, the reverend Gerald Pocock wanted Alice to record this tribute. About a year later, Duke's nephew Stephen James handed me the lyrics, saying that next time I produced a recording with Alice I should bear that song in mind.

Here it is, together with songs by Duke, and Spirituals.

As evidence of her musical artistry, of her versatility, her uniqueness.

Frank Hedman