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Desmond Dekker – ... In Memoriam 1941 – 2006 (CD)

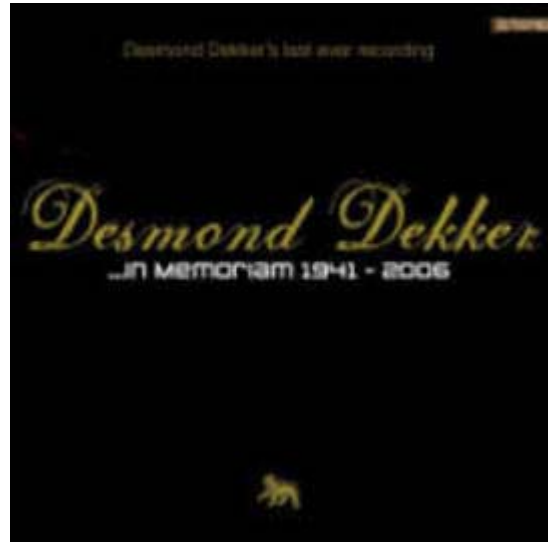
Sound: B Music: B

Before his passing, the Reggae pioneer Desmond Dekker recorded his last album, which is ironically a collection of his best-known songs. *007 (Shanty Town)* was a huge hit in 1967 and *Israelites* was popular enough to be a U.S., Top Ten hit in 1969. What might have seemed like

anomalies then for a genre that was considered to ethnic to ever succeed worldwide and for decades after the fact are now landmark successes *still* often only known among serious music fans. **Desmond Dekker – ...In Memoriam 1941 – 2006** became the title of the last untitled album by the man who might now be Reggae's best-kept secret.

Cut in January, 2004, the tracks are as follows:

1. *007 (Shanty Town)*
2. *Don't Blame Me*
3. *Hippopotamus*
4. *Intensified*
5. *Israelites*
6. *It Mek*
7. *Jamaica Ska*
8. *Nincompoo*
9. *Opportunity*
10. *Pickney Gal*
11. *Pretty Africa*
12. *Problems*
13. *Rudy Got Soul*
14. *Sabotage*
15. *Sing A Little Song*
16. *The More You Live*
17. *You Can Get It If You Really Want*
18. *Unity*
19. *Where Did It Go*
20. *Wise Man*



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Though he had been on many record labels in his long career (Uni, Trojan, Stiff, Rhino), Secret Records landed this final album and the performances are really strong. So is the sound, here in PCM 16bit/44.1kHz 2.0 Stereo so strong, that it seems only this format is holding it back. It also shows that Dekker was still in his prime. That makes it a must-have Reggae work, though even if you are not a fan, you will still want to give it a listen because it gives a strong new presence to the genre that is often still thought of as only a phenomenon of the 1960s and 1970s.

Also, the booklet with its tech information and great essay on Dekker is a must-read. He was still in peak form and if he had not passed on when he did, the music here also poses the possibility that he could have made another comeback.

- Nicholas Sheffo



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