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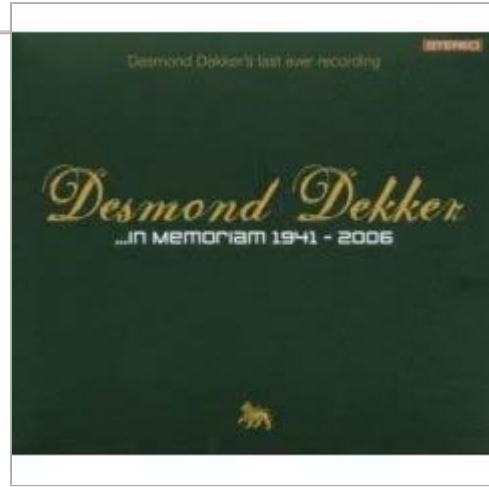
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REVIEWS

CD Review - Desmond Dekker

By Michael Steiger

Title: In Memoriam 1941-2006



Artist: Desmond Dekker

RecordLabel: Secret LTD.

Copyright: 2006

ASIN: B000H5TUHM

Review: There are no surprises here. Every time his uneven but consistent 40-year career enjoyed another peak, Dekker obliged his new audience by rerecording his hits. It's kind of a shame that the Jamaican legend didn't follow the leads of Jimmy Scott and Johnny Cash and reinterpret modern pop songs to suit his style.

Don't get me wrong. These songs, and the singer for that matter, aged really well. He may have lost a few semitones off his soulful tenor, but he still managed to pull these off like a man half his age. It's a pretty fitting if slightly unsatisfying overview of a storied career.

In fact, I would go so far as to say that he could have recorded "Israelites" and filled up the rest of the disc by reading a list of 700 hobo names and that would have been just fine. The man deserves crazy amounts of credibility.

If you have never played "Israelites," arguably his most famous and least decipherable song, in a room full of people just to see how they interpret the lyrics, you don't know what you're missing. It ranks right up there with "Louie, Louie."

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