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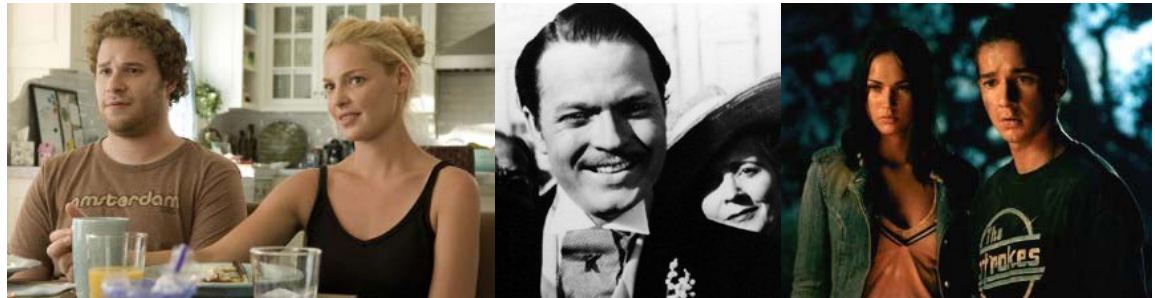
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Blood Sweat & Tears: Spinning Wheel



This entry was posted on 5/14/2007 12:03 AM and is filed under [DVD Reviews](#).

Founded in 1967 by ex-Blues Project member Al Kooper, **Blood Sweat & Tears** quickly became regarded as one of the more promising and interesting bands of the late-1960s, crafting tunes out of musical influences as disparate as Billie Holiday, Tim Buckley and Erik Satie. As initially conceived by Kooper, the group was **a sort of jazz-rock horn band**, and the pioneering fusion of that interesting sound on their debut album, *Child Is Father to the Man*, enchanted many critics.

Kooper departed straight away after that recording, though. New singer David Clayton-Thomas led the band to bigger commercial success, chiefly via trading in many of the group's idiosyncrasies for a more pop-oriented approach. The band released three more albums in relatively quick succession, and the result was a sort of split decision; **despite chart success, they also found they had alienated many of their first fans**, both music writers and more traditional jazz lovers who had been lured over into the fold by Blood Sweat & Tears' hybrid sound.

The concert disc *Spinning Wheel* features a full live show from the band's 1980 United Kingdom reunion tour, and includes the title track hit single, as well as fellow chart-placers "You Made Me So Very Happy" and **the baroque "Hi-De-Ho," which I once recall a former babysitter blasting at full volume — to my joint delight and fear — while my parents were away**. Recorded in April of 1980 at the Civic Center Theatre in Halifax, England, the sold-out show runs an hour long, and features an appreciative audience that sometimes drowns out some of the subtler notes and runs on display. Joining Clayton-Thomas on stage are Richard Martinez, David Piltch, Keith Seymour, Robert Economou, Stanley Cassidy and Vernon Dorge. Other tunes alongside the aforementioned trio include "Nuclear Blues," "Manic Depression," "You're the One," "God Bless the Child" and "Blood, Sweat and Tears Blues."

Presented on a region-free disc and housed in a regular Amray case, *Spinning Wheel* comes with a 5.1 surround sound audio track — and a transfer that does little to mitigate the poor source lighting of the original concert. **For those with more of a nostalgic attachment to the tunes herein, this is a perfectly acceptable release**. For more dispassionate newcomers glimpsing back into the musical-history archives, this is a shrug of a release. There are, alas, no supplemental extras included herein. [To purchase the DVD via Amazon, click here](#). C (Concert) C (Disc)

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