



NRBQ Derbytown

2004 saw the release of { \$NRBQ }'s 1989 Montreal concert on the excellent { ^One In A Million } DVD and 2006 brought this release of a 1982 show from Louisville, Kentucky entitled { ^Derbytown }. As with the previous disc this one is chock full of great stuff from a group that is perpetual and indestructably inevitable. Credited as { \$NRBQ } with { \$The Whole Wheat Horns }, a duo who were touring with the band at this point in time, the version of the group here includes { \$Joey Spampinato } on vocals and bass, the great { \$Al Anderson } singing and playing guitar, { \$Terry Adams } on vocals, piano and clarinet and { \$Tom Ardolino } on drums. { \$Spampinato }'s pretty and effective { &"I Love Her, She Loves Me" } is wonderfully sixties with Adams pulling out a tiny keyboard for something that sounds like it came off a { \$Vanity Fair } recording. It's followed by a driving { &"What's The Plot" } with { \$Al Anderson } singing like he's auditioning for { \$Bachman Turner Overdrive }. That's a compliment. There are thirteen tracks on this forty-three minute concert along with one page of liner notes from { \$Johnny D } and three cool "bonus" selections that are brief but very fun. The first of the bonuses is a mere seventeen second a cappella entry { &"Program Them Computers" } (process the data) with the gents wearing bags on their heads a la chef's hats and singing those six words. That's followed by a 42 second { &"Atsa My Boys" } promo film with those participating wearing the same attire and flinging pizza dough to harmonica accompaniment. Keep in mind, as musical as the fellows are, they've always made irreverance part of the equation. The final bonus is a real nugget, a very cool but grainy three minute twenty eight second TV performance of { &"Me & The Boys" } live...well, a lip sync "live" version with the band banging away with no amplification. It's a treasure for the hardcore fans of the { \$New Rhythm & Blues Quartet } as is the concert itself. Decent footage for the day, though not crystal clear, what the film lacks in quality it more than makes up for with the spirit and performance of the group. The venue is packed and the band is solid as a rock. What more can an { \$N.R.B.Q. } fan ask for?

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