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Artist: Blackwood Brothers

Project Title: Classics Volume One

Label: Daywind

Producers: □ Trey Ivey

The Blackwood Brothers are some of the early pioneers of Southern Gospel Music. Of course, none of those original members are with us anymore, but the current lineup of men are carrying on the tradition of this great quartet in an excellent way. The latest effort from the Blackwood Brothers is a collection of ten songs, most of which you will know if you have even had a passing interest in Gospel Music over the past few decades. The project is appropriately titled “Classics Volume One” and that hopefully means that there is a “Volume Two” on the way!

The project begins with one of my all-time top 10 favorite songs! “I’d Rather Have Jesus” is a true classic and I love this song and the message in it. I would rather have Jesus than anything else in this world. The guys do a great job singing the song too. Another truly classic song is next with “He Touched Me.” This Bill Gaither written classic has been a standard in Southern Gospel Music since the 1970’s and it is an amazing remembrance of how powerful the touch of God is in our lives. I have been doing a study on God’s Love lately and have realized once again just how amazing it is. The great Dottie Rambo song, “If That Isn’t Love” paints a beautiful picture of God’s Love and this song always brings me to tears to really consider just how much love God has for me and for you!

Have you ever wondered just exactly what Jesus Christ sees in you? Well, I have wondered why He would choose to call me to be His Child but I sure am glad He did! “Who Am I” is a song that asks that question in a beautiful melody and lyric. The song admits that we

may never know why He chose to die for us but we can be assured that He did. One of my favorite subjects for a song is the Blood of Jesus Christ. There have been a lot of great songs written about that but there are none better than "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power." What a great truth! God's Blood will never lose its power at all. It will continue to give us strength and continue to erase sin. I would really hate to think what my life would be like without Jesus in it. I mean, in all honesty, I have been a Christian for over 40 years and I can still mess up pretty bad with Him in my life! Mylon Lefevre wrote a song in the 1960's titled "Without Him." It is one of the most beautiful songs I have ever heard as it pleads for the sinner not to turn Him away, I grew up in the 1970's and 1980's. During that time Squire Parsons wrote a song titled "Sweet Beulah Land." This song would go on to become one of the most beloved songs in Southern Gospel Music. I must admit when I was a teenager, the song did not have a lot of meaning for me. However, as I get older and have watched parents, family and friends pass over to Heaven, it sure means a lot now. I am longing for Beulah Land more and more these days.

Speaking of longing for Beulah Land, can you imagine what that day will be like when we actually get there! The old classic is still a favorite and the Blackwood Brothers sing "What A Day That Will Be" next. I can only imagine what that day will be like but this song surely helps to describe what it will be like. I remember when I was growing up that it seemed like every single quartet was singing a song called "The Eastern Gate." It had been a while since I heard that song but was thrilled to hear the Blackwood Brothers sing it here. I mentioned earlier that I had been studying God's Love recently and another song that paints a beautiful picture of God's Love is "The Love Of God." I have always loved this song and especially the last verse. That is the final song on this great collection of classics and it is a perfect ending.

It is fitting that this project from the Blackwood Brothers is full of classic songs. Some of my fondest memories are sitting as kid and listening to the old Blackwood Brothers records that my mom and dad had. The group today is still a very talented quartet that has a sound that you will enjoy and appreciate. They give outstanding performances on all ten of these classic songs and I really enjoyed listening to this great collection of music. My favorite songs from this project were hard to pick but I finally narrowed it down to "I'd Rather Have Jesus," "If That Isn't Love" and "What A Day That Will Be." Ten classic songs with a classic sounding quartet, that is a sure recipe for success and this project right here is an excellent one! For more information on the Blackwood Brothers, visit their website at www.blackwoodbrothers.com.