



JOE BONAMASSA

You and Me

Producer: Kevin Shirley

Premier Artists Services

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Joe Bonamassa's sixth disc, "You and Me," continues the blues rocker's ascent into territory traditionally tread by men steeped in at least twice the years' experience of this 29 year old. And yet, the singer/player from upstate New York, who started playing guitar at 4 and was opening for B.B. King at 12, sounds increasingly world-weary on vocals—perhaps as he further grows to embrace the sad voice of his familiar, plugged-in instrument.

Highlights include the Ray Charles-inspired "Asking Around for You," all-too-literal New Orleans ode "High Water Everywhere" and covers Otis Rush's "So Many Roads" and "Tea for One," recrafted from its original take by Led Zeppelin. Bonamassa may have the blues at heart, but he rocks harder here and there (à la Jeff Beck) than many of his obvious influences.—CT