

Mp3 Blue Rodeo - Are You Ready

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Canada's most popular roots rock band, Blue Rodeo became a veritable institution in their home country, although they never quite moved beyond cult status in the U.S. Their sound is a basic blend of country, folk, and rock, but with a definite pop appeal. 12 MP3 Songs COUNTRY: Country Rock, ROCK: Americana Details: On February 7, 2005, Blue Rodeo celebrated the twentieth anniversary of their first gig by returning to the scene of the crime (The Rivoli in Toronto) and gathering together the original five band members for one unforgettable night of nostalgia. In the twenty years since their first gig at The Rivoli, Blue Rodeo have sold millions of records, won countless awards and traveled the world time and time again while Jim Cuddy and Greg Keelor have gained notoriety as two of Canadas greatest songwriters (their names fit comfortably alongside those of Neil Young, Joni Mitchell and Gordon Lightfoot). That night in February was a celebration of a band that has not only endured but flourished. Blue Rodeo are a band never afraid to embrace their past as they continue to forge a path towards their future. Twenty years on and Blue Rodeo are set to release their tenth studio album, Are You Ready. The album title says it all and asks it all. If you take too much time to ask yourself am I ready for what, then the record might just hit you squarely between the eyes. Are You Ready delivers fans just what they are looking for, great songs with memorable melodies and remarkable musicianship. The albums twelve songs range from the Cuddys beautiful ode to his wife, Rena to Keelors rocking title cut. Keelor also contributes the song Phaedras Meadow which features a guest appearance from The Chieftains Paddy Moloney. Are You Ready was produced by Blue Rodeo and Chris Shreenan-Dyck at The Woodshed, the recording studio the band built for themselves in downtown Toronto. The first record recorded at The Woodshed was 2002s Palace Of Gold. The songs on Palace of Gold were driven by the Bushwhack Horns and included a ten-piece string section. In contrast, the newest album is much sparser in songwriting and execution. We had performed at a Gordon Lightfoot tribute and from that remembered how much we liked the sound of voices and acoustic guitars, recalls Jim Cuddy. We decided to go back and do more of an acoustic record. It didnt turn out that way but our direction was set out. Greg Keelor picks up the thought and continues We have our own studio and can take our time. The last record we

indulged ourselves with horns and strings. We pulled way back this time. They may have pulled back on their indulgences but the 60s soul that inspired the horns on Palace Of Gold can still be heard on the albums opening cut, Cant Help Wondering Why. In fact, Blue Rodeo is always ready to let all of their influences inspire them and they will not turn their back on what drives them forward - or what has brought them here. With the sound of Bob Egans pedal steel guitar floating through many of the tracks, fans might think that the band has returned to its original country-rock roots. Indeed, the song Beverley Street was originally written for the bands second album, Diamond Mine, and then forgotten until a local Toronto band played their own version (learned from a long-forgotten live bootleg) for Blue Rodeos Bazil Donovan who then reminded Jim and Greg about the song. The track fits in beautifully with the newly written material on the album. Blue Rodeo will launch Are You Ready doing what they do best

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