

# ON THE ROOF

THE MUSIC OF TOM HARRELL

IMOGEN RYALL · CHRIS COULL QUARTET



RUBICON JAZZ  
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- 1 **DREAM IN JUNE** 6.06
- 2 **SEVENTY** 4.00
- 3 **APRIL MIST** 4.53
- 4 **MOON ALLEY** 5.33
- 5 **DUBLIN** 5.18
- 6 **SAIL AWAY (VELEJAR)** 5.38
- 7 **MONTEGO BAY** 5.06
- 8 **ON THE ROOF** 6.14

All tracks composed by Tom Harrell, with lyrics by Imogen Ryall; except track 6: Lilian Vieira  
Arranged by Chris Coull, Imogen Ryall and Si Robinson

**IMOGEN RYALL** *voice*  
**CHRIS COULL** *trumpet and flugelhorn*  
**SI ROBINSON** *piano*  
**SIMON WOOLF** *double bass*  
**JOE EDWARDS** *drums*

I'm always very excited when Imogen Ryall releases a new album and I've been eagerly awaiting this new collaboration with Brighton-based trumpeter Chris Coull. *On the Roof* is a breathtaking musical journey paying tribute to the music of the legendary US trumpeter Tom Harrell. This project seamlessly blends Imogen's soulful, emotive vocals with Coull's masterful trumpet playing, creating a unique and rich soundscape, which is both exciting and sensual. The album features eight of Harrell's intricate and varied compositions, enhanced by Imogen's intelligent and evocative lyrics that breathe new life into each piece and turn them effortlessly into songs. Her lyrics elegantly capture the essence of Harrell's original works, adding a personal and deeply introspective layer to already catchy melodies. One standout track, 'On the Roof', which serves as the album's title, embodies the creative synergy between Ryall and Coull, and offers listeners a stunning fusion of jazz innovation and fun and heartfelt storytelling. For me, the track 'Montego Bay' is another

highlight of the album – I love Imogen’s use of her lower vocal range and her brilliant ability to scat sing, which has always been a skill of hers that I have admired! The track ‘Dream in June’ showcases her impressive vocal dexterity and deep understanding of jazz improvisation, and the combination of voice and trumpet lines works so well here. Additionally, Imogen’s lyric writing shines particularly brilliantly on the track ‘Seventy’, where her poignant and reflective words add emotional depth to the music, demonstrating her remarkable ability to merge storytelling with jazz. In Imogen’s words, this lyric was an ode ‘to growing old spectacularly’. Pianist Si Robinson, bassist Simon Woolf and drummer Joe Edwards complete the line-up and play with flair and sensitivity throughout. *On the Roof* is a tribute not only to Harrell’s genius but also to the intimate artistry that Ryall and Coull bring to the project. An absolute triumph all round.

**Claire Martin** OBE



1 **Dream in June**

I made a living  
Kept my nose clean  
Never needed much

Life was forgiving  
I could daydream  
Of summer's golden touch

Wading through winter  
Waiting for spring to come

2 **Seventy**

Lines of laughter  
Flecks of grey  
Bright-eyed  
Time and tide can wait  
Now's your moment to shine  
Life is still full of wonders  
To discover

Shunning beige  
For rainbow hues  
Tie-dyed,  
Chant away those blues  
Freckled hands throwing clay  
Never too late for you  
To take a lover

3 **April Mist**

When spring arrives, I'll be remembering  
How long I'd waited for our romance to begin  
We stole a kiss in April Mist  
And my heart began to sing

It's no surprise, the birds are lingering  
The days grow longer and so warm again  
Oh how I miss your tenderness  
In my heart, it will remain

Love was mine for one moment in time  
But now I find I'm not in line for an ever after

When summer leaves, I'll be remembering  
The autumn chill as nights are drawing in  
And since we kissed in April Mist  
In my heart you will remain

4 **Moon Alley**

Hiding behind a smile  
To reveal his truth  
Might take a while

Aching to come alive  
By the light  
This half moon will provide

Make believe –  
A safer haven to grieve in

Night falls, he'll come alive  
By the light  
This half-moon will provide

5 **Dublin**

Through the silt and the mercury  
To the mouth of the sea  
Life goes on in the darkest place  
Untouchable and free

Sun ablaze in the summer sky  
Warms the children at play  
Dipping toes at the water's edge  
All cares are washed away

7 **Montego Bay**

Summer moved on  
Left us behind  
We'll set our sail  
For warmer climes  
Life flows in  
MONTEGO Bay

Blue water  
Sky azure  
Enraptured  
Hereafter

Soon as I hear  
'Old winter's song'  
I long to stray  
Follow the sun  
Time slows in  
MONTEGO Bay

Blue water  
Sky azure  
Enraptured  
Hereafter

To paradise  
We found our way  
Our Shangri-la  
And here we'll stay  
Love grows in  
MONTEGO Bay

Blue water  
Sky azure  
Enraptured  
Hereafter

8 **On the Roof**

We're on the roof  
We're looking up at the sky  
We're on the roof  
We wave at people passing by  
We know the truth  
That there will be better times  
You hear the happiness in our cries  
And when we laugh  
Our sorrow will soon subside

We're on the roof  
We've never had so much fun  
We're on the roof  
And now the party has begun  
So lose your blues  
Forget your troubles and come  
Up where there's never a cloud in sight  
And where the sun  
Is always so warm and bright

It's time to play  
This lovely day  
Tomorrow's just a dream, far away  
It's no use clinging to yesterday

Up on the roof  
We're looking up at the stars

We're on the roof  
They share their splendour from afar  
There's no excuse  
We've gotta open our hearts  
And we'll be singing into the night  
Up where the moon  
Is always so clear and bright





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