

= A Retrospective (Pink Martini album) =

A Retrospective is the first compilation album by the American group Pink Martini , released in September 2011 in the United Kingdom and the following month in the United States , Australia and Canada . The album contains twenty @-@ one tracks from six studio albums . Guest artists include Michael Feinstein (" How Long Will It Last ? ") , French singer and songwriter Georges Moustaki (" Ma Solitude ") and director Gus Van Sant (" Moon River ") ; the compilation also features remixes by New York City disc jockey Johnny Dynell (" Una Notte a Napoli ") and Hiroshi Wada (" Kikuchiyo to Mohshimasu ") .

Critical reception of the compilation album was positive overall ; many reviewers appreciated the album in its entirety but criticized select tracks . A Retrospective reached a peak position of number seven on Billboard 's Top Jazz Albums chart .

= = Composition = =

A Retrospective contains twenty @-@ one tracks totaling more than seventy minutes in length , some of which were previously unreleased . Tracks originally appearing on the group 's 1997 debut album Sympathique include Manuel Jiménez 's " ¿ Donde Estas Yolanda ? " , " La Soledad " , " Sympathique " , " Que Sera Sera " by Ray Evans and Jay Livingston , and " Amado Mio " . " Hang On Little Tomato " , " Una Notte a Napoli " , " Anna (El Negro Zumbón) " , " Lilly " and " Aspettami " first appeared on Hang On Little Tomato (2004) . The group 's 2007 album Hey Eugene ! included the song of the same name ; similarly , " Splendor in the Grass " was the title track of the 2009 album of the same name . The samba @-@ influenced version of " Auld Lang Syne " was the final track on Pink Martini 's 2010 holiday album Joy to the World . 1969 , the collaborative album with Saori Yuki first released in October 2011 , included Jorge Ben Jor 's " Mas que Nada " .

" Moon River " , originally by Henry Mancini and Johnny Mercer , and " The Man with the Big Sombrero " were previously unreleased . " Moon River " featured guest vocals by director Gus Van Sant , marking his singing debut . French singer @-@ songwriter Georges Moustaki provided vocals on " Ma Solitude " , and pianist and singer Michael Feinstein contributed to Max Lief and Joseph Meyer 's " How Long Will It Last ? " The compilation also features two remixed recordings : " Una Notte a Napoli " by New York City disc jockey Johnny Dynell , and an instrumental version of " Kikuchiyo to Mohshimasu " by Hiroshi Wada . " Kikuchiyo to Mohshimasu " originally appeared on Hang On Little Tomato .

Included with the album is a 48 @-@ page booklet of previously unseen Polaroid pictures taken by Thomas Lauderdale , along with postcards and posters from Pink Martini 's history . A deluxe hardbound CD book version was also available for purchase . The group promoted the release of A Retrospective and 1969 by touring throughout the United States , including a holiday special in Portland , Oregon featuring Saori Yuki as part of their Holiday Tour .

= = Reception = =

Overall , critical reception of the album was positive , though some reviewers criticized select tracks . Michael Upchurch of The Seattle Times wrote that the " A " before " Retrospective " in the album 's title was appropriate and that the compilation included highlights of the group 's career . The New Zealand Herald 's Lydia Jenkin thought the collection represented a standard Pink Martini concert set list by including a variety of sounds , languages and vocalists , each delivered with " class , passion and subtlety " . Jenkin awarded the album 3 @.@ 5 of 5 stars , complimenting the album overall but noting that some tracks featured less " elegant sophistication " or " imaginative " arrangements . Marion Pragt wrote a positive review for The Cambridge Student , believing the compilation incorporated various styles of music and reflected the group 's " cosmopolitan nature " . Pragt concluded by asserting that the album was " perfect for avid admirers and newcomers alike " .

Rave magazine 's Chad Parkhill rated the album three of four stars . Parkhill described " Auld Lang Syne " as " weirdly off @-@ kilter " and found Dynell 's remix to be " profoundly derivative " , but also

called some of the previously unreleased material " wonderful " . Tom D 'Antoni of Oregon Music News called Van Sant 's performance " truly awful in execution " , but considered the album to be " simply sensational " overall . The Sydney Star Observer 's Nick Bond complimented the album 's artwork and packaging .

= = Track listing = =

Track listing adapted from Allmusic .

= = Personnel = =

Credits adapted from Allmusic .

= = Charts = =

A Retrospective reached a peak positive of number seven on Billboard 's Top Jazz Albums chart .

= = Release history = =

Release history adapted from Pink Martini 's official website .