

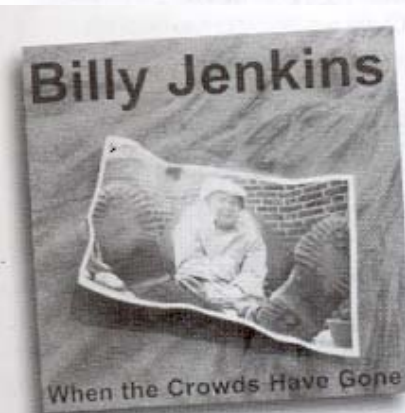


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BILLY JENKINS *When The Crowds have Gone*

Babel BDV 2450.

So whether the World needs it or not, our man Jenkins has created the musical equivalent of the late Tony Hancock's 'Punch & Judy Man' film - where circumstances leave the central figures awash in melancholy wondering what hit them. A saturnine production from Peter Bennett gives a stark but not harsh soundscape with chinks of warmth and humour flashing



occasionally like the last embers of sunset on a bracken filled pond. These are all BJ compositions and feature his voice and guitars with contributions from Dylan Bates on secondment from his Motel duties to play violin and Steve Watts on double bass. Songs like 'I Like Rain' and 'The Tide Is Out'

set human behaviour against the elements whilst the easy going instrumental 'Sitting On The Dock Of Ebay' evoke past times, a feat with sparse instrumentation. 'This Room' is sonic heartbreak but not doused in self-pity, more regret. 'Blues Is Calling Me' is an atypical player's lament - when the smoke clears you can still sing and play, which is more than some poor souls have...so the latest Billy Jenkins release finds him channelling personal angst into these self-penned songs that let warmth temper pain. His 'Blood On The Carpet Tiles' perhaps?