

## Mp3 Blue Rodeo - Lost Together



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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. 13 MP3 Songs COUNTRY: Country Rock, ROCK: Americana Details: Lost Together is the first album that Blue Rodeo has recorded that does indeed speak for itself. With three platinum-plus albums already under their belts, the group decided that the time had come to make a record exactly the way they wanted to - so they produced it themselves. The result is an album that freely exhibits all of the textures that Blue Rodeo have become known for. "We were talking to producers about working on this album," says singer/guitarist Jim Cuddy. "But then we started thinking, why are we trying to make someone else understand what we want? The time had come for us to plow ahead." Working with engineer Peter Doell (who worked with the band on their Casino LP), the group recorded Lost Together during the winter of '92 in Toronto and mixed in Los Angeles. The album's thirteen tracks run the gamut sonically from out and out rockers ("Restless" and "Where Are You Now") to beautiful ballads ("Already Gone" and the album's first single, "Lost Together") to extended "space jams" ("Angels" "Willin' Fools"). The band's pure pop sensibilities shine through on songs such as "The Big Push" and "Flying", while the addition of pedal steel guitarist Kim Deschamps (formerly of The Cowboy Junkies) to the group's line-up adds an ethereal dimension to songs such as "Rain Down On Me" and "Last To Know". But, it is the unique harmonies of the group's main songwriters Greg Keelor and Jim Cuddy that most define these diverse styles as the "Blue Rodeo sound". That sound began to develop years before the formation of Blue Rodeo, when high school friends Jim Cuddy and Greg Keelor began writing songs together and formed an "amphetamine pop band" called the HiFi's. The pair moved to New York City in 1981 and tried landing a recording contract. Three years later they returned home to Toronto

without a deal, but discovered a burgeoning club scene where acts such as k.d. lang, The Cowboy Junkies and Jeff Healy were honing their chops. Keelor and Cuddy recruited bassist Bazil Donovan, a friend from their earlier New Wave days and met self-taught pianist Bobby Wiseman through his older brother. A drummer (Cleave Anderson) was found through a classified ad and Blue Rodeo was formed. The new band played wherever a gig was available. Soon their live reputation was drawing sell-out crowds. Audiences right across Canada were taken in by this new group's mix of Flying Burrito Brothers-styled country and Beatle-esque harmonies that maintained the desperate rock-and-roll crunch of Jim Greg's HiFi days. The group's free-for-all live performances were another reason for the big draws with guitarist Keelor humourously wobbling across the stage, and keyboardist Wiseman ending many a night standing on the keys of his instrument. Word soon spread from the street to the record companies and a deal was struck with Warner Music Canada. Their 1987 debut album, *Outskirts* (produced by Terry Brown), was an immediate critical success, but it wasn't until the release of the album's third single, "Try", that radio stations paid much heed to the band. Seemingly overnight, Blue Rodeo was transformed from a hot commodity on the Toronto bar circuit to a national treasure. In the two years following the release of *Outskirts* (an album which sold over 200,000 copies in Canada) the public voted them Best Group at the Toronto Music awards and the Casby Awards. They were acknowledged as Best Country Group by the Canadian music industry at the Big Country Awards, while at the 1989 Juno Awards (Canada's equivalent of the Grammys), Blue Rodeo was voted Best Group and "Try" was named Best Single. In its review of the album, *Rolling Stone Magazine* noted, "The best American band is from Canada." In December of 1988, the band set up their equipment in an old movie theatre in the east end of Toronto, and using the Comfort Sound Mobile Studio facility, Blue Rodeo turned the theatre into their home for three weeks of recording. The album they recorded with engineer/producer extraordinaire Malcolm Burn was *Diamond Mine*, and it proved that this band meant business; it wasn't going to be a one-hit wonder. The album's title track muscled its way onto radio and video outlets all across Canada with a sound that recalled the best of '60s rock, and the album quickly surpassed the platinum sales plateau. The group's live reputation continued to grow, thanks to a grueling tour schedule that took them across North America and on to Europe. They played the Montreux Jazz Festival and appeared on the silver screen as Meryl Streep's backing band in *Postcards From The Edge*. At the 1990 Juno Awards, broadcast nationally, Blue Rodeo performed in the capacity of back-up band in a Hall of Fame tribute to another Canadian group they are

most often compared to - The Band. That show also saw Blue Rodeo being named Best Group for the second year in a row, an honour they would again repeat in 1991. For their third LP, Casino, the group took yet another approach to recording - going to Los Angeles to work with producer Pete Anderson (best known for his production work with Dwight Yoakam). Anderson brought focus to the band's songwriting. The songs became more crafted, bearing the hallmarks of classic pop in sound and scope. The album's first single, "Til I Am Myself Again", sent a message out to Blue Rodeo fans everywhere, that the group simply refuses to repeat itself. Upon the release of Casino (another platinum album), the group followed the success of the record right across Canada with its first national headlining tour of concert halls. A highlight of the year was Blue Rodeo's return to the Juno Awards broadcast as the featured band in a stunning tribute to Hall of Fame inductees Ian and Sylvia Tyson. Which brings us to 1992 and Lost Together. Another chapter begins in the extraordinary career of Blue Rodeo. After completing his parts on the album, longtime keyboardist Bobby Wiseman left the band to pursue his career as a producer and artist in his own right. With the addition of Kim Deschamps, keyboardist James Gray and powerhouse drummer Glenn Milchem, Blue Rodeo hasn't missed a step, becoming an even more awesome live act. Critics have noted that this new line-up offers a more raw and aggressive sound than ever before. Blue Rodeo is Greg Keelor (vocal/guitar), Jim Cuddy (vocal/guitar), Bazil Donovan (bass), Kim Deschamps (pedal steel guitar), James Gray (keyboards) and Glenn Milchem (drums). The record speaks for itself.

January 1992 All songs 1992 Blue Rodeo Productions. PRODUCED BY: Pete Anderson PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: Barbara Hein for Entertainment Management Inc. RECORDED AT: Track Record Studios - N. Hollywood, Capital Studios - Hollywood MIXED AT: Capitol Studios - Hollywood RECORDING ENGINEERS: Judy Clapp Peter Doell ADDITIONAL RECORDING: Ray Blair Charlie Paakkari MIXED BY: Judy Clapp ASSISTANT ENGINEERS: Ken Paulakovich Cameron Getto MASTERED BY: Stephen Marcussen at Precision Lacquer CUSTOM DRUMS TUNING: Ross Garfield at Drum Doctors PHOTOGRAPHY: (Front) David Michael Kennedy (Group Photo) Bert Bell (Portraits) John Phillips ART DIRECTION: Bob Defrin, Vic Bailey, Richard Collicott ADDITIONAL MUSICIANS: Lenny Castro: Percussion Jeff Donovan: Drums Skip Edwards: Organ Taras Prodaniuk: Bass Pete Anderson: Guitar/Mandolin BOOKING AGENTS: Trick or Treat Agency (905) 831-9191 Special thanks: Michelle, Big Jim, Rena, Devin, Emma, Ethel, Rael, Faythe, Dwayne, Lori Yates, Ron Berti, Joe Fafard's cows, Capt. Setarcos, Otis Spann, Barb McAdorey, The French Family, Mary, Susan Gentile, Tom, Justin, Kevin,

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