

MOJO MAGAZINE

FILTER ALBUMS

Dion

★★★

Bronx In Blue

ORCHARD ENTERPRISES

Intimate, acoustic blues by a godfather of New York's streetcorner harmony voice.

Dion DiMucci's early records were a masterclass in sharkskin-suited, suave Italian vocal group singing: Runaround Sue, I Wonder Why, etc. But even then he had a feeling for the blues, cutting songs like Jimmy Reed's Baby What You Want Me To Do, which he's tackled again here, alongside songs made famous by the likes of Willie Dixon and Howlin' Wolf. Recalling the back-to-basics approach of Cash's American recordings - muted drums, acoustic guitars - it's a little like having Dion in your front room strumming his favourite blues songs. There's plenty of Robert Johnson, but it's the less well-known songs which work best, the prize going to a fine cover of Hattie Hart's lascivious I Let My Daddy Do That.

Max Décharné