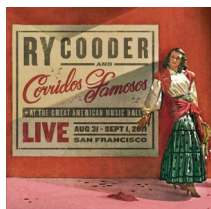


REVIEWS

RY COODER

**Live in San Francisco**

[Nonesuch/Perro Verde]

If this album evokes feelings of déjà vu, it's because you *have* been here before. Ry Cooder's last live album was recorded at the same venue, the Great American Music Hall—albeit back when Gerald Ford was in office. Fortunately, Cooder hasn't changed much in the last 37 years. His guitar work remains peerless, his devotion to roots music impenetrable. Cooder has broadened his interests since those early days—he helped popularize Cuban music via *Buena Vista Social Club*—and although he reins in the world influences here, he shows his range by enlisting the 10-piece La Banda Juvenil brass band, trying gospel-funk on “Lord Tell Me Why” and covering Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs’ “Wooly Bully.” The ensemble playing is superb, whether the band is taking on soul balladry or gritty, solid blues. Solid: That's one word that always did, and still does, describe Ry Cooder. —Jeff Tamarkin

‘Ry Cooder’s last live album was recorded at the same venue—albeit back when Gerald Ford was in office. Fortunately, Cooder hasn’t changed much in the last 37 years. His guitar work remains peerless, his devotion to roots music impenetrable.’

