

REVIEWS

SOLOMON BURKE & DE DIJK

*Hold on Tight*

[Verve]

It's an odd pairing on the surface: Solomon Burke, the great soul colossus, fronting a Dutch band hardly known outside their native country. But the members of Amsterdam-based De Dijk (translation: "the dike") sound as if they were born to back Burke. Recorded in Brussels in just six days in late 2009, *Hold on Tight* features the soul legend covering (in English translations) a splendid R&B-drenched sampling from De Dijk's back catalog. A few notes into the opening track, it's clear the Dutch ensemble has assimilated classic American R&B in more authentic fashion than most contemporary U.S. counterparts. High points include the title track, a smoldering tune fitted with Memphis-style horns and organ swirls, and "What a Woman," a honky-tonk stomp that swings with a vengeance. Burke, who died in the Netherlands last year just days prior to a scheduled performance with De Dijk, could hardly have asked for a more fitting capstone to his career. —RH

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