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Jools Holland and Marc Almond – A Lovely Life to Live

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As both Jools Holland and Marc Almond point out in the publicity notes for *A Lovely Life To Live*, the pair have a fair

amount of history, with the singer having sung with Holland's Rhythm and Blues Orchestra many times. He and Almond co-wrote most of songs on this album, indulging the latter's fondness for the kind of smoky jazz and blues numbers that might have accompanied Dirk Bogarde films in the 50s and 60s. *I Lost My City* is gloriously nostalgic, complete with a lonesome trumpet and Hammond organ, while Almond's phrasing is beautifully nuanced in *Workhouse Blues*. His gift as an interpreter of other's lyrics comes to the fore in Edith Piaf's classic torch song *Hymne A L'Amour* and *Tainted Love* works well with Holland's big band razzamatazz.