

The International Review of Music

- [Home](#)
- [Contact Information](#)
- [iRoM Mission](#)

CD Review: Lance Lopez “Handmade Music”

Lance Lopez

Handmade Music (MIG Music)

by Devon Wendell

Texas based blues six stringer Lance Lopez has already earned legendary status among his peers and mentors: B.B. King, Billy F. Gibbons, and Johnny Winter, to name a few. Before becoming front-man of his own band, Lopez also played with blues and soul giants Johnny Taylor, Lucky Peterson, and The Buddy Miles Express.



Lance Lopez

Follow

Lopez's latest CD, *Handmade Music* is his second project with acclaimed producer Jim Gaines, following the critically acclaimed *Salvation At Sundown*.

Gaines's expertise is helping some of the greatest rock/blues guitarists in the world to shine on record. Gaines has produced albums for Albert Collins, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Carlos Santana, and Buddy Guy. So working with Lopez makes perfect sense.

Lopez commented on his association with Gaines; "His work with Stevie Ray Vaughan and Carlos Santana alone speaks huge volumes. I knew when it came time for the next chapter of my catalog that Jim needed to be involved."

Handmade Music was recorded at Ardent Studio in Memphis TN, which was made famous by classic rock, blues influenced pioneers such as Led-Zepelin, ZZ Top, George Thorogood, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and The Allman Brothers.

"Come Back Home," "Hard Time," and "Your Love" are no-nonsense blends of down-home Texas blues with fun Southern rock. Lopez's guitar solos are raw and technical without losing the potent soul of the blues. Even with Lopez's apparent influences — Albert King, Billy F. Gibbons and Jimi Hendrix — his piercing, razor sharp tone and fluid phrasing are refreshingly unique.

Lopez also proves to be an exceptionally vocalist. His smoky, gravelly voice on the r&b flavored "Dream Away," and "Letters," rivals the power of his guitar pyrotechnics.

Lopez is also one of the finest composers of blues-driven rock. His poignant "Let Go" and Santan-esque instrumental "Vaya Con Dios" are filled with sophisticated layers of guitar harmonies. The driving guitar riffs of Lopez's version of Robert Johnson's "Traveling Riverside Blues" is more reminiscent of Cream or Led-Zeppelin than the traditional blues style of Johnson.



There is a sense of joy and fun throughout this recording. The loose, house rocking boogie of "Can You Feel It" is certainly proof of that with its ZZ Top feel.

The low-down, dirty 12 bar blues of "Lowdown Ways" is easily an album highlight. Here, Lopez shows his love for blues guitar fathers Albert Collins, Albert King, Buddy Guy, with dashes of Jimi Hendrix and Jeff Beck thrown in for good measure.

Lopez's guitar playing on *Handmade Music* is filled with hammer-ons and lightning-fast trills which bring to mind a heavy metal shredder like Steve Vai rather than the economical blues approach of, say, B.B. King. His flashy style might make the most stubborn blues purist cringe, but it's bound to get the attention of fellow guitarists of all learning levels. Although more than competent, Lopez's

Follow

backing band — Chris Gipson, bass and drummer Jimmy Dereta — could have added more fire to the album to match that of their band leader.

With this recording, Lopez once again proves that he is one of the most creative and skilled musicians in the world of blues and rock.



Like Be the first to like this post.

This entry was posted on Monday, March 5th, 2012 at 6:07 pm and is filed under [CD - Blues](#), [CD - Pop](#), [CD - Rock](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

Post navigation

[« Previous Post](#) [Next Post »](#)

One Response to *CD Review: Lance Lopez “Handmade Music”*

1. [Henk Kruidenier](#) says:
[March 7, 2012 at 1:47 pm](#)

HEY LANCE DO IT MAN YOUR MY BROTH ^^>;^^;^^<@ UTRECHT !!

[Reply](#)

Leave a Reply

Follow

Enter your comment here...

Fill in your details below or click an icon to log in:

Email

(Address never made public)

Name

Website

Notify me of follow-up comments via email.

Post Comment

• Recent Posts

- [Live Music: Billy Childs Jazz-Chamber Ensemble at Vitello’s](#)
- [Quotation of the Week: Chris Botti](#)
- [CD Review: 10,000 Maniacs “Our Time In Eden”](#)
- [Live Music: Keith Jarrett performs solo at Walt Disney Concert Hall](#)
- [Picks of the Week: March 27 – April 1](#)
- [Live Music: Noa \(Achinoam Nini\) in a UCLA Live Concert at Royce Hall](#)
- [Live Music: Zakir Hussain’s Masters of Percussion at Walt Disney Concert Hall](#)
- [Q & A: Israeli Singer Noa \(Achinoam Nini\)](#)
- [Picks of the Week: Mar. 20 – 25](#)
- [Live Jazz: The Johnny Mandel Big Band at Vitello’s](#)

• Categories

- [An Appreciation](#)
- [Ballet](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Brick Wall Keeping It Real](#)
- [CD – Blues](#)
- [CD – Classical](#)
- [CD – Country](#)
- [CD – Jazz](#)
- [CD – Latin](#)

Follow

- [CD – Music](#)
 - [CD – Pop](#)
 - [CD – Rock](#)
 - [CD – Songwriting](#)
 - [CD – World Music](#)
 - [Cd Folk](#)
 - [CD Songs of the Holidays](#)
 - [CD- Irish Music](#)
 - [DVD Review](#)
 - [Festivals](#)
 - [Film Review](#)
 - [Here There & Everywhere: Don Heckman's Blog](#)
 - [Holiday Gift List](#)
 - [Humor](#)
 - [Jazz With An Accent: Fernando Gonzalez' Blog](#)
 - [Katz of the Day](#)
 - [Konik's Commentary](#)
 - [Live – Classical](#)
 - [Live – Country](#)
 - [Live – Jazz](#)
 - [Live – Pop](#)
 - [Live – Songwriting](#)
 - [Live – World Music](#)
 - [Live African Music](#)
 - [Live Bluegrass](#)
 - [Live Blues](#)
 - [Live Folk:](#)
 - [Live Indian Music](#)
 - [Live Latin Jazz](#)
 - [Live Music](#)
 - [Live Rock](#)
 - [Live Theatre:](#)
 - [Live: Brazil](#)
 - [Live: Humor](#)
 - [News](#)
 - [On Second Thought](#)
 - [OpEd](#)
 - [OpEd Commentary](#)
 - [Picks of the Week](#)
 - [Profile](#)
 - [Q & A](#)
 - [Quotation of the Week](#)
 - [Stories To Tell](#)
 - [The Holidays](#)
 - [Thoughts](#)
 - [Uncategorized](#)
 - [Wisdom of the Great Songbook](#)
- Search

Follow

• Archives

- [April 2012](#)
- [March 2012](#)
- [February 2012](#)
- [January 2012](#)
- [December 2011](#)
- [November 2011](#)
- [October 2011](#)
- [September 2011](#)
- [August 2011](#)
- [July 2011](#)
- [June 2011](#)
- [May 2011](#)
- [April 2011](#)
- [March 2011](#)
- [February 2011](#)
- [January 2011](#)
- [December 2010](#)
- [November 2010](#)
- [October 2010](#)
- [September 2010](#)
- [August 2010](#)
- [July 2010](#)
- [June 2010](#)
- [May 2010](#)
- [April 2010](#)
- [March 2010](#)
- [February 2010](#)
- [January 2010](#)
- [December 2009](#)
- [November 2009](#)
- [October 2009](#)
- [September 2009](#)
- [August 2009](#)
- [July 2009](#)
- [June 2009](#)
- [May 2009](#)
- [April 2009](#)
- [March 2009](#)
- [February 2009](#)
- [January 2009](#)
- [December 2008](#)
- [November 2008](#)
- [October 2008](#)
- [September 2008](#)

• Follow Blog via Email

Enter your email address to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Follow

• **Blogroll**

- [Around the World](#)
- [Aurgasm](#)
- [Buzz Bands](#)
- [LA Observed](#)
- [Metaljazz.com](#)
- [Michael Konik](#)
- [Spinning in Air](#)
- [The International Review of Music](#)

• **jazz**

- [All About Jazz](#)
- [Carla Muses](#)
- [Catalina Bar & Grill](#)
- [Charlie O's](#)
- [City of the Angels Music](#)
- [Cyril Moshkow's Jazz Blog](#)
- [In-House Music](#)
- [Jazz Beyond Jazz](#)
- [Jazz Continuum](#)
- [Jazz Corner](#)
- [Jazz Profiles](#)
- [Jazz.com](#)
- [One Working Musician](#)
- [Rifftides](#)
- [Steamers](#)
- [The Jazz Bakery](#)
- [Tony's Page](#)
- [Upstairs at Vitello's](#)
- [Vibrato Grill Jazz... etc.](#)
- [Yoshis](#)

• **music**

- [Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts](#)
- [DevraDoWrite](#)
- [Orange County Performing Arts Center](#)
- [REDCAT](#)
- [UCLA Live](#)
- [Walt Disney Concert Hall](#)

Follow

• Pop/Rock

- [Canyon Club](#)
- [House of Blues Sunset Strip](#)
- [Key Club](#)
- [Largo at the Coronet](#)
- [McCabe's](#)
- [Molly Malone's](#)
- [Roxy](#)
- [Spaceland](#)
- [The Echo and Echoplex](#)
- [The Hotel Cafe](#)
- [The Mint](#)
- [The Viper Room](#)
- [Troubadour](#)

Theme: [Contempt](#) by [Vault9](#).
[Blog at WordPress.com](#).

☰

Follow