

Blues Bytes

What's New

November 2013



I had the pleasure of meeting Bobby Messano for the first time last summer. Deanna Bogart was sitting in and I learned about the gig through D's calendar. She knows I can't go a summer without hearing her play at least once and this was a great opportunity to do so in my own backyard. I remember now that I'm supposed to ask Bobby a story about Aretha Franklin and coffee but it's probably a little too late for that. The entire band played their rear ends off that night and Bobby was extremely proud of his forthcoming new disc, *Welcome to Deltaville*, and it's a great listen!

While Deltaville is actually "The Boating Capital of the Chesapeake," to Bobby and his band, it's actually a state of mind, a feeling to be treasured. The unusually loquacious John Hammer describes Deltaville this way, "It is a promise of beautifully conceived stories masterfully shared from the heart, deliver with consummate perfection." Let's hit play and get our journey started.

So of course Bobby and the band start out with their version of the Rush classic, "All Your Love." Deanna's sax figures prominently in the background as Bobby shares his take on the love he needs and is missing. Up next is an original, "The Invisible Man," and the rock blues side of Bobby is at the forefront of this tune. Here Bobby finds that he's no longer the object of his woman's affection, a situation that took him completely by surprise. "The invisible man...here I am...but disappearing wasn't in the plans!" Sadly Bobby, it's time to move on my friend. Bobby's an amazing guitarist and we hear his rock influences front and center in the amazing riffs that accentuate his pain.

The title cut, "Welcome to Deltaville," is next and has a much mellower vibe. "There's a place...I can go...where I can lie in the sun...if I lie low...not a care in the world...I'm safe and warm...nothing can hurt me there...welcome to Deltaville!" Deltaville sounds heavenly, a place where we all can let our cares drift by the wayside as we lie safely in the arms of the sun and let its warm rays wash over us. We all should head there soon!

A reggae vibe appears next in the form of "That's the Way of the World" and is the perfect complement to the relaxing vibe of "Welcome to Deltaville." The world can be a cruel place and Bobby is telling us to hang onto what we need. "When you got something special child...they want to take it from you...that's the way of the world!" Deanna takes off into a blistering sax solo that reminds us all to hang onto what we need to survive in this crazy world. Definitely one of my favorite tunes on this disc.

Bobby slows the tempo down and eases into a ballad on our next cut, "My Crazy Dreams." "When you've lived a life...that's been a helluva fight...it's the only life...that you'll ever have...that's what your dreams become...my crazy dreams...always get the best of me...pick me up when I'm feeling

down...there are times in my life...that always feel right...my crazy dreams...never let me down!" Bobby's passionate guitar work is proof enough to me that his crazy dreams do matter! "I Ain't got Diddley" has a definitive Bo Diddley influence but here Bobby is telling the woman in his life that he doesn't have all the answers...or all the money! "I ain't your gangster of love...pick your number between 1 and 10...I ain't got diddley...ain't got diddley for you!"

Deanna's intricate keyboard strokes provide the intro for Bobby's take on another classic, "The Way You Do the Things You Do." "You could have been anything you wanted too...and I can tell by the things you do!" Love this tune and Bobby's version of it with D's sax in the background. Another Messano original, "Lonely Town," is next and here we find Bobby describing the life of an individual living in despair. "You got a bad...bad feeling...inside your heart...cause it's been ripped apart...you're in Lonely Town!"

Bobby and the band ease into a beautiful instrumental, "Sleepwalk," featuring passionate riffs by Bobby with Deanna's piano complimenting Bobby's emoting before finishing with a Stevie Winwood tune, "The Low Spark of High Heeled Boys." While it starts out with a jazz feel, "The Low Spark of High Heeled Boys" heads into a world of its own and becomes a fitting end to Bobby and the band's efforts on Welcome to Deltaville!

Welcome to Deltaville is definitely a satisfying disc to my ears. Bobby's band with Steve Geller on bass, Mel Watts on the drums and percussion with Deanna sitting in on piano and sax is a very tight unit and their expertise shines throughout. Bobby's a phenomenal guitarist and shines his own light on this project as well. Bobby's on the road a lot so catch him when you can, and take the journey to Deltaville, you'll be glad you did!

--- Kyle Deibler