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Record Review: John Mayall: Howlin' At The Moon



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Once a bluesman...always a bluesman

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Video: [John Mayall: Howlin' At The Moon](#)

Rating for [John Mayall: Howlin' At The Moon](#):

While the heat wave continues here in our fair city of Toronto, people are looking for any way possible to beat the heat or at the very least get their minds off of it. It was once said by Mr. William Shakespeare that "Music hath charms to soothe a savage beast" and while this heat wave may not be a beast, it certainly couldn't hurt to put some on and give it a try. Today it feels appropriate to go back and enjoy some blues from Britain's ambassador of the blues himself; Mr. John Mayall. This new collection of live recordings from the Bluesbreakers reunion tour of the early 80's is quite simply ***John Mayall: Howlin' At The Moon.***

Historically, I am usually a little hesitant when it comes to live recordings, but with the opening kick of Mexico City is becomes clear that these recordings were well preserved and sound like they could have been record last week, much less 30 years ago. For those in the know, John Mayall's reputation as a virtuoso of the blues is well know, but what caught me off guard on some tracks was his ability to step back, particularly on a track like "Emergency Boogie". It didn't need loud electric

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guitar solos all over it, just a simply 4 piece harking back to the days of some of Mississippi Fred McDowell or Son House, the musicianship is there but the storytelling takes over.

Conversely the very next track on the album "Rolling With The Blues" is all about the musicianship, Mayall keeps a healthy balance between it all. The pedigree of those who have played with Mayall and the Bluesbreakers plays like a hall of fame induction list, and on the 1982 reunion tour of the Bluesbreakers when Mick Taylor from The Rolling Stones and John McVie of Fleetwood Mac rejoin the group for some shows it sounds like they have never left and yet more proof that John Mayall and The Bluesbreakers have been the proving ground for British blues & rock musicians for nearly half a century.

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Hearing these recordings is yet another reminder that to know where you are going musically, you occasionally have to remember where you have been. It's for fans only, but **John Mayall: Howlin' At The Moon** does that in spades and a welcome addition to any collection in need of some blues.

Key Track: Emergency Boogie

John Mayall: Howlin' At The Moon should be available at record stores across Toronto, you can click [here](#) for a list of some around the city, or you can try my favorite right [here](#). However at the end of the day it might just be easier to try an online retailer like [seeofsound.com](#).

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By David Voigt
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David Voigt, a regular contributor to the Examiner.com, was a content manager in entertainment industry. His 12 years of experience have provided...

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