



New Riders of the Purple Sage

Where I Come From

[Woodstock]

There's no shortage of classic combos attempting to reclaim their branding, even lacking the presence of key personnel. The Who, the Dead, Queen ... each has attempted to assert their pedigree with yet another curtain call. Consequently, we find the New Riders—regrouped under the auspices of two original members, guitarist David Nelson and pedal steel player Buddy Cage—touting their first studio set in 20 years.

Admittedly, there's cause for suspicion; the group's moniker was appropriated by second-stringers after the original outfit's demise, and subsequent live offerings have merely retreaded familiar turf. Fortunately, the new album overcomes such obstacles, boosting credibility through contributions from lyricist Robert Hunter and the trademark sheen of Cage's steel and Nelson's melodious intonations. While the musical mix infuses more blues and Southern soul, the standout songs—"Big Six," "Olivia Rose"—suggest the New Riders may be back in the saddle to stay. —LZ

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