



New Riders of the Purple Sage

Where I Come From

Woodstock Records

The New Riders ride again! Sounds like a classic western. And this band is

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indeed pure legend. Launched to satisfy head Deadhead Jerry Garcia's jones to play his pedal-steel, chief songwriter John Dawson's lyrics lifted the band above being a mere side project to have a soul – and life – of its own. Signed to Columbia by Clive Davis, it toured for 11 years and released 12 albums along the way.

In 2005, the band reformed; you could call them the new New Riders of the Purple Sage. Early members David Nelson and pedal steelman Buddy Cage are back, along with Hot Tuna guitarslinger Michael Falzarano.

With 12 new songs – seven co-written with famed Dead lyricist Robert Hunter – the band has released its first new studio album in 20 years.

Kicking off with the title track, the band sounds better than ever. Their roots echo through the songs – Garcia and the Dead, the laidback Bay Area take on country music, and more. And yet the songs resonate with a new energy. The musicianship is impressive, the interplay tight, the solos inspired, the sound warm and bright. Most tracks were cut live in the studio, including “Barracuda Moon,” which was not only a first take, but the first time the band ever played the song. – **MD**