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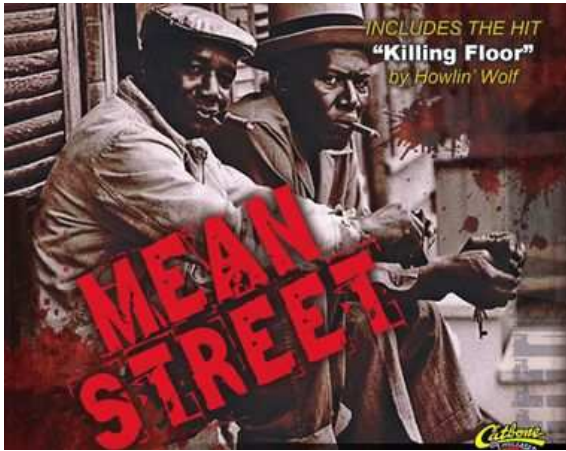
# Jukin' wit de Blues: Muddying the Blues Waters

## When blues compilations stray too far afield...

By Dallyon Stymien (/writer/dallyon-stymien/), Contributor

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I generally feel like compilations are a good and relatively inexpensive way to sample a new genre of music. However, I am always a tad skeptical when it comes to compilation CDs with cool retroed period photos and diverse fonts on the covers that really don't do a thing for me. For me, it's all about the music. When my wife informed me she had seen a brand new blues compilation series I might be interested in, as usual I didn't get all goose pimply with excitement. Still, I'm always up for something different and decided to give them a fair listen.



Belly Full of Blues

Various

Buy New \$14.55



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Jukin' wit De Blues is a brand new series of five CDs being released today from Catbone Unreleased (<http://catbonemusic.com/store/>) featuring unreleased and restored Howlin' Wolf, James Cotton, Muddy Waters, and more that will be available for purchase as of October 11.

Belly Full of Blues, Mean Streets, and Saturday Night in Shankletown are the three of the series that I've had the opportunity to sample. When I started reading who the artists were on *Belly Full of Blues* my curiosity was piqued — the aforementioned Muddy Waters, Billy Boy Arnold, John Lee Hooker, Peter Frampton. I stopped and said, "WTF? Frampton? I thought this was a blues compilation."

Okay, I'll admit it. I own a large and diverse blues collection; but in all of my searching and collecting I didn't know Frampton was a bluesman. Who woulda thunk it? Well, then I looked at the other CDs and there was Frampton again, along with Little

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Jukin' wit de Blues is a possible lover of history, politics, reading, music, and film. Dallyon has a job that's about every job you could imagine and has opinions about everything.

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Richard, The Commodores, Jack Millman, George Cummings, and then a solo Tina Turner.

This really threw me off a little bit on the whole compilation. Admittedly, there is some really good blues on these CDs, but there are also quite a few songs that just do not belong (I am not saying that the songs themselves are bad, but that they belong in a different compilation). Also, while the actual blues music here is good, it's the same artists over and over on each CD. It's as if they got the rights to a few songs and artists and regurgitated them into a loosely connected mess.

There are much better blues compilations out there that offer a wider variety of artists and different sub-genres of the blues. I highly recommend [Chess Records](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Chess-Records/37102337790?v=info) (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Chess-Records/37102337790?v=info>) Anthologies, [Alligator Records](http://www.alligator.com/) (<http://www.alligator.com/>), and some of the old [Fat Possum](http://www.emusic.com/listen/#/album/Variou-Artists-Fat-Possum-Not-The-Same-Old-Blues-Crap-3-MP3-Download/10842834.html) (<http://www.emusic.com/listen/#/album/Variou-Artists-Fat-Possum-Not-The-Same-Old-Blues-Crap-3-MP3-Download/10842834.html>) anthologies.

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**Johnnyblue573**

(<http://disqus.com/guest/5a3f242d5e0daa0b6bd6082ff07852fb/>)

I read your comment, these albums represent Blues, in history, evolution and as a jukebox you would find in a juke joint. Sorry you didn't know Frampton was a Blues guitarist, that is how he started off.



**khatley121**

(<http://disqus.com/khatley121/>)

Dallyon,  
I appreciate your review, and critique of my work. However you are totally missing the point on this compilation, funny enough, out of many reviews we have had, you are the first.

Catbone Unreleased, ([www.Catbonemusic.com](http://www.Catbonemusic.com)) (<http://www.Catbonemusic.com>) is exactly what our slogan reads, . "Just Great Music". First and foremost, we are not trying to be a strictly Blues label. We showcase Blues as the Father of modern day Rock , R n B, Rock and Roll and Jazz. We add tracks in that is from our catalog influenced by the Blues. This includes Jazz, Rock and Roll, ( including Frampton), Nanette Workman. We theme them as a series, and release them. I played with a lot of major artists, and Blues Artist, I grew up with the Blues in the south, lived with the Blues, I also know for

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
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
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fact that in every Blues joint there was a juke box. These juke boxes always had some jazz titles, Rock n Roll , and even a few Country Titles. As a Producer and artist, I am depicting an era, and paying tribute to Shankletown, that is the real true name of the area in a little Cotton Mill Town in North Carolina (Concord) where I grew up, playing with African Americans in Shankeltown, at the Dew Drop Inn, another section Silver Hill at the Black Cat Inn, Ebony Club in Charlotte, Brown Derby In Charleston, SC, St James Hotel, Charleston, Johnny Warings Hollywood Playboy Club in Hollywood / Walterboro SC, where you could get your throat cut with a threat razor, or shot with a .32 cal Saturday Night Special at any time you mouthed off to the wrong person. I never had a problem at any of these places, made a lot of friends when we would play, and love these people. It is to them this is dedicated.. These same people hid us when the Klan decided we needed to be taught a lesson, and I left the Carolinas because of that. So when I say I know the blues, there is one other person, I know that was there, that lived through that with me, and me with him. I suggest you read my History on KHAINC then tell me what I can and can't do with however and what ever I want to compile, as long as it is legal, and for your information, much of this material has never been released, some of the songs have, but many of these recordings were not. I caqn't believe you find it appalling tha tLittle Richard is on there as a convuluted mess, because he is Rock N Roll, or Frampton, or Nanette workman. Amazing!

Your appalling nescience regarding the same artists over and over again, trust me rwe have many more than this, we chose these, because these are the Fathers of Modern Rock n Roll, whom we are paying tribute to,our market is Americana, Blues, R & B, and Music Lovers. SO your comment, states these artists are only worth one song? If you are a Blues Critic, I find that to be far on the outside of the Blues world and its influences, you must not be American, or you would know what an impact these artists have had. This my friend is a tribute to a lot of great songs and artists Did you tell radio stations they can only play certain music ? Did you dare tell a jukebox operator they were allowed to have only one style of music on there, and you could not have more than one record per artist on the jukebox? Have you ever been in a real juke joint, I have, many, and played many. Do you know what the Chittlin Circuit was?

I do want to say thank you for your critique, you gave us a lot of space, to tear us down, yet you said nothing about the restored masters, the quality. You obviously were not provoked to think about what your were writing, I will educate you on a couple things for your future reference, Jack Millman and the Hollywood Jazz Allstars are collectors items, the band was Jack Millman, Maynard Ferguson, Stan Kenton, Shelly Man, Howard Roberts and Barney Kessel, Chico Hamilton. George Cummings, A Cajun from Meridian Miss. founded Dr Hook, Sang some of the Hits, was a Blues player for years, recorded with Chess with Darrell Vincent and The Flairs, and is a studio musician, writer, and has a deep down in the swamp voice and a unique style of Cajun Blues. Barry Darnell, is Mobile Slim, who was one of the original Macon / Capricorn artists. So you have a nice day my friend, why don't you return the collection if you are not paying for it. Oh, btw, can you advise us what are your qualifications as a critic and an authority on the Blues.

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I do sincerely appreciate your candor and the review, as a critic, I also know you are doing what you do, and if that's your honest feelings, then I applaud you for your honesty.  
Ken Hatley

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