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Bernard Allison – No Mercy (Blues CD)

Sound: B- Music: B-

Might the Blues get into trouble with their repetition despite the consistent fan base? That was the thought that occurred to me when listening to the short set on Bernard Allison's new CD **No Mercy**, a surprisingly short 1994 concert CD that has a few classics (*Rock Me Baby*, *Tin Pan Alley*) and seven other often original tracks that have a tendency to drag on more than they should. Allison can play his guitar well enough, but this just must not have been his night.

Making it worse is the dated sound. The PCM 2.0 16bit/44.1kHz Stereo is surprisingly compressed sounding for its age and makes a bad situation worse. Though the album is not the total torture the title would suggest to more sarcastic critics, it ultimately just falls too flat in too many ways.

- Nicholas Sheffo



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