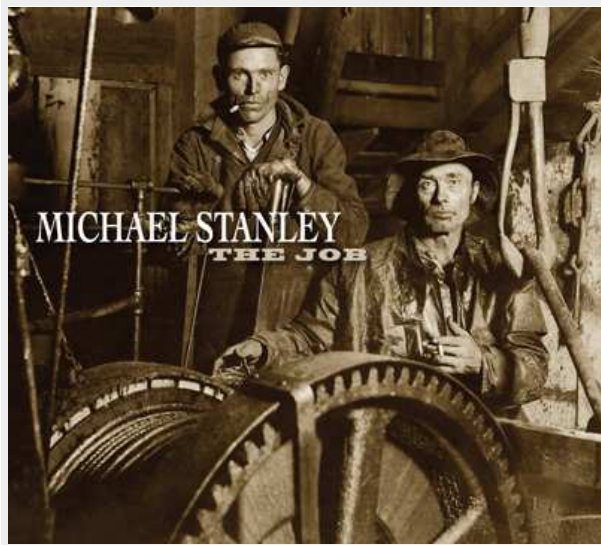


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CD Review: Michael Stanley- "THE JOB"

April 11, 2014 by [Jim Carver](#) 1 Comment



Michael Stanley has released his latest recording entitled "**The Job.**"

The new CD contains 13 songs written from the heart of *Cleveland's Favorite Son*.

"The Job was produced by **Michael Stanley** and mixed by **Bill Szymczyk**.

Order a copy of "**The Job**"- [here!](#)

Rock Lines is honored to review Michael's latest release!



Michael Stanley has defined the Cleveland Rock Scene for decades. From a band called **Silk**, to the leader of **The Michael Stanley Band**, as a solo performer and currently, **Michael Stanley and The Resonators**- he's done it all. From **The Cleveland Agora** to **American Bandstand**, **Drew Carey Show** to Arenas across the USA. *The Michael Stanley Band* sold two shows out at the **Coliseum** faster than **Led Zeppelin**, set attendance records at **The Cleveland Agora**, **Blossom Music Center** and **The Front Row Theater**.

Michael Stanley has always been there for the working man, he's one of us. Michael never quit, retired or changed his style. Through the good times and bad he's always a constant reminder of life in the heartland. I

believe he founded the "Bruce Springsteen sound" with "Midwest Midnight" before Springsteen. Like a fine wine, Michael's writing continues to improve with experience and we will certainly never see a more talented writer as Michael in our lifetime!

Weather for Mansfield, Ohio

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
Chance of a Thunderstorm	Chance of a Thunderstorm	Chance of a Thunderstorm
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The musician and radio-DJ for **WNCX** was truly sent here to: "Play all the hits, you wanna' hear!"

Photo used courtesy of: **Joe Kleon**.

The Job

Everything's Fine kicks off the new CD with a bluesy organ and horns overtop a driving rhythm section with a funky bass guitar. The chorus turns into a memorable moment with backup vocalist **Jennifer Lee** sweet voice over Michael's baritone range. The guitar solo is a blazing piece of work, which adds color to the opening tune. Lyrically, Michael doesn't disappoint with his attitude of swagger and delivery of "Everything's Fine", talking about a girl who see's things slightly different from the rest of the world, living on the edge until it hits the fan.

'Still everything's fine, nobody got caught'

'Yeah everything's fine, right up till it's not'

The Job begins with an slightly upbeat tempo with guitar and **Tommy Dobeck's** bass drum keeping the beat. The Job somewhat compares to "Midwest Midnight" in Michael Stanley's telling the tale of starting a band and the trial and tribulations that go with being a musician. "The Job" is about climbing the ladder, reaching success and starting all over again. The familiar storyline can easily be applied to anyone working.

"The Job" has a **Bo Diddly** groove to it and will have your foot tapping from beginning to end. Once again, a blistering guitar solo by **Danny Powers** draws you deeper into the groove. It's no wonder this song is a fan favorite at recent concerts. "The Job" is a simple message and an effective display of truth that we all feel at sometime in our life!

Last Good Nerve has an amazing bass line by **Eric Sosinski** with **Bob Pelander** providing a improvisation between electric piano and organ. Michael Stanley works the song's effective vocals with a gritty, slightly haunting and personal take of someone being wore down. **Danny Powers** sounds incredible, the guitar solo is a stunner!

The tone of "Last Good Nerve" is dark and somber with Michaels delivery of the words and the music. It signifies one of Michael's strengths of making the listener walk in his shoes and at the same time understand- you're not alone!

'And if God's in his Heaven'

'You're gonna get what you deserve'

'Cause all you keep doing'

'Is working my last good nerve'

You Just Never Know is a tender heartfelt ballad. Michael reminds us no matter how tough life can be; we need to pause, reflect and realize when something ends, it's a chance for something else to begin. "You Just Never Know" begins with a beautiful piano accompaniment from Bob Pelander. Jennifer Lee provides another soft background vocal. The reprise within "You Just Never Know" is uplifting and Robert Pelander provides a melodic piano and organ solo.

Survive and Advance is a catchy tune that reminds me of an old western tale that could easily be featured in an outlaw movie. **Ed Canor's** violin, viola and the acoustic guitars blend so well together you can feel the wind at your back and the dusty trail on your boots. Michael's vocals tell the story well about being down to your last chance.

Maybe This Is The Day is a mid-tempo song of hope and dreams. Ed Canor's violin provides a nice twist to the tune. The chorus is a beautiful reminder that- 'maybe this is the day, 'cause it ain't over yet.' Michael and Jennifer's vocal harmonies remind us how their voices compliment each other.

Velvet Parkway is a shinning example of Michael Stanley's ability to set the mood with a dark and edgy vocal. The guitar solo and fadeout is a tonal delight in a melodic sway of colors and the band projects a vibrant flair of fever intertwined with soul. "Velvet Parkway" is enchanting sound of professional musicians showing their prowess!

Breaking News is perhaps the *finest love song* Michael Stanley has written. Considering his material over the years that's quite some statement! "Breaking News" was definitely written from personal experience and it's a gut wrenching testimony of love, remembrance and sadness. *The acoustic ballad is as soft as rain with a tender vocal and delivered in a fashion that only Michael*

Stanley knows how to give!

Unfinished Business is another upbeat song of hope and wondering of what might have been. The catchy tune has a nice guitar solo by Danny Powers and Bob Pelander's keyboards provide a nice compliment to the song. "Unfinished Business" shines in a vibe of vocal harmony by Michael and Jennifer and build into the chorus. This song is touching, personal and inspirational with lasting love.

Get In Line begins with a swamp-like vibe of guitar, bass and **Rodney Psyka** laying down a serious groove. The band joins in and the intensity swells. Michael delivers a bravado vocal and Danny Powers provides a mean guitar solo. Keyboardist, Bob Pelander trades licks between Danny's guitar and brings the song to a crisp. "Get In Line" is a shaker and mover. The tune shows Michael and the versatility of the musicians.

Talking The Long Way Around is a mid-tempo rocker that reminds us that love can take time. Michael vocals are delivered in meaningful suggestion, inspiring us to never give up. The contrast of excepting the good and the bad is a message of hope. Michael Stanley has always had a knack for contrasting in his musical writings.

The Same River Twice begins in a funky groove with percussion, organ and bass, accompanied by a horn section phrasing. The song has a "New Jersey" feel to it at times. "The Same River Twice" is an exercise of funk meets blues. Michael delivers a strong vocal and Jennifer Lee provides some nice vocal runs towards the close of the song.

Dark Angels is a beautiful ballad from **Michael Stanley**. Touching, moving and inspiring from the opening chords to the end. Michael Stanley strong vocal message with Bob Pelander's melodic piano is a treat to hear. The band supplies a nice background accompaniment for Michael and the synthesizers of Mr. Pelander and viola by Ed Caner are exceptional. The highlight of the song fades to Michael on guitar and he provides a message we all know to well! "Dark Angels" is another strong song to this exceptional recording.

5 / 5 stars

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Tagged With: [Bill Szymczyk](#), [Bo Diddley](#), [Bob Pelander](#), [Danny](#)

[Powers](#), [Ed Caner](#), [Eric Sosinski](#), [Jennifer Lee](#), [Michael Stanley](#), [Rodney Psyka](#), [The Job](#), [Tommy Dobeck](#), [WNCX](#)

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About Jim Carver

Jim Carver is the President of The Rust Belt Chronicles.

In 2004, Jim graduated from North Central State College with a degree in

Business Information Technology. Jim developed "Rock Lines" news report online

in 2010. After a trial-run of The Rust Belt Chronicles in April of 2013, Jim decided to make his dream a reality in 2014 by re-launching The Rust Belt Chronicles.

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