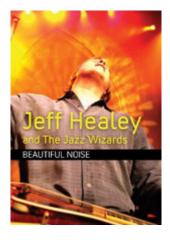
Jeff Healey - Beautiful Noise (MVD4950D) - 3*

Blues maestro in trad jazz mode ...

Jeff Healey's 'Beautiful Noise' is a curious release. For just like Zappa before him who managed to drag some of his rock audience to a different musical landscape (in this case some opaque classical music) Jeff reveals a musical mistress.

In fact Jeff's passion for Trad jazz more closely accords the musical penchant of film director Woody Allan. But while for one it was a hobby for the other it was passion that was ultimately never overshadowed by his main rock/Blues career. The problem is convincing his fans that there is an accessible crossover point from Rock to Swing.

After all on his penultimate British tour tickets sold like hot cakes until the penny dropped that he was playing nothing but Trad jazz. And that's a shame for on the evidence of some of the music here there's



much to admire. His band is good, the solo's burst with passion and commitment and above all the band do swing, if not with abandon, then certainly enough reverence to please a crossover crowd.

For full review, click here