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The All Purpose Blues Band Cornbread & Cadillacs

Review by Larry Toering

This comes out of left field for me, as I did not expect such a killer collection of tunes. I like to take chances once in a while, and they tend to pay in great dividends such as this. But a disc featuring the likes of Willie (The Hambone) Lockett and his crew can hardly disappoint even the most casual blues lover. He's played with everyone from Z.Z. Hill to Rickey Scaggs. A better and more fun loving traditional blues album is not easy to find these days, and this deserves all the attention it can get. At every turn on the disc there is something fascinating and inspiring to sink ears into and never forget. It's that wonderfully satisfying. This is an amazing CD. That is one thing I can guarantee.



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Track by Track Review

Going Back To New Orleans

This gets things started in absolute classic blues tradition, and does no wrong in the process. What a great way this is to start the vibes flowing and get the blood pumping. Everything about this number is just plain smoking hot! I love the guitar work and how it entices for more. The vocals are very narrative and gruff, just the right touch for such a well delivered and heavily repeated chorus track that hits home squarely.

I'm Your Hambone

This is a sassy gritty ballad, as I expected a more humorous track, but it actually doesn't come without a comical lyric. More killer guitar soloing rounds it out very nicely. This is great stuff!

I'm Searching

I find this to be even more of a ballad, as it's slower and definitely more languid. This goes almost into epic blues territory, as it's less playful than the previous track, but more serious and lengthy. In fact, this clocks in at 7:12. There is not a bum note on this.

Killing Floor

This once again goes down a traditional lane, and makes a few modern stops along the way. The classic Chester Burnett number is playfully ramped up with lots of swing. It's a very satisfying effort indeed. I love this respectful rendition, as it just burns!

Sweet Disposition

We get pure blues through and through once again, but that is the ticket of course. It's just so well done that it's hard to describe without defining it in every sense of the term. This is fantastic!

Willie on The Phone

This is invitingly mellow at just the right time on the disc, as it just seems to be winner after winner. The humor and seriousness are met so evenly that it's hard to tell which is which. And the guitar playing is some of the hottest on offer so far.

From Memphis

This is simply amazing, another ballad, but this one somehow has an all genre appeal. This is where the soul factor really kicks in, and starts to really impress.

V-8 Ford

Now this is a rock n' roll number, with just the right blues touch, but not going as far as blues/rock. It maintains more of a rockabilly vibe. Some seriously hot guitar licks are all over this one, and it's probably one of the better numbers on the disc. Lightning fast flurries galore make this number hard to deny in all of its awesomeness. It's another amazing display of energy.

Cornbread & Cadillacs

The title track has not only blues going for it, but some jazzy and soul factors, as well. This contains a perfect blend of everything this band is all about. It is excellent!

I Got Everything I Need

There are several ballads on this release, and this is yet another interesting one with an easy to relate to title and lyric. It's almost reminiscent of Sonny and Cher's "I Got You Babe," and for me that isn't a bad thing at all. It just goes there from time to time, and the guitar here is also exquisite.

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Kicking back up a notch, this is a cow bell heavy track, but somehow not altogether that percussive at the same time. It's magical how this all comes together, simply magical. I don't know if this is a cover of a traditional blues track or not, as I've never heard it, but it does have a slightly familiar ring to it. Who doesn't like familiarity?

A Change Is Gonna Come

Closing the set is another big ballad, complete with swaggering and various strings to back it. This is probably overall the most versatile number on offer, as it runs through not only blues but a jazzy arrangement and soulful vocals.

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