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Keith's Blues Blog

By [Reverend Keith A. Gordon](#), About.com Guide to Blues

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Long John Baldry DVD Preview

Wednesday September 17, 2008

On September 30, 2008 our friends at Music Video Distributors will be releasing Long John Baldry's *It Ain't Easy* DVD. Capturing an incredible 1987 live performance by the British blues artist, *It Ain't Easy* features eight songs, including Baldry's best-known tune, the mid-1970s hit "Don't Try To Lay No Boogie Woogie On The King Of Rock 'n Roll."

Baldry and his band – consisting of dynamic vocalist Kathi McDonald, keyboardist Joseph Ingraio, guitarist Papa John King, saxophonist David Norris-Elye, bassist George Sweetnam, and drummer David Hutcherson – performed for over an hour at Iowa State University, delivering Baldry's unique mix of blues, rock, and soul music.

Long John Baldry is a bona fide U.K. music legend, his career dating back to 1961 when the "godfather" of British blues, [Alexis Korner](#), along with his partner Cyril Davies, asked Baldry to join their fledgling Blues Incorporated band. In the mid-60s Baldry formed Steampacket with the then-unknown vocalist Rod Stewart, and later formed the band Bluesology with keyboardist Reg Dwight, who would later find fame and fortune as [Elton John](#).

With a career that stretched over 40 years, Baldry recorded a dozen-and-a-half albums, and he continued to perform both in England and the United States until his death in 2005. Precious little video exists of this original and influential artist, and *It Ain't Easy* promises to provide a look back at one of the founding fathers of the British blues scene.



Photo courtesy [Music Video Distributors](#)

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