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Jack Bruce & Robin Trower - Seven Moons Live (2009)

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Blues-rock legends Jack Bruce, bassist for the ground-breaking 1960s-era band [Cream](#), and guitarist [Robin Trower](#), a long-ago member of British rockers Procol Harum and a successful solo artist, have teamed up once again to release their first live CD and DVD together.

Seven Moons Live was filmed in February 2009 in front of a raucous, enthusiastic audience in Nijmegen, Holland. The fourteen-song performance features eight songs from the pair's 2008 studio album, *Seven Moons*, as well as new versions of three classic Cream songs.

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Inductee

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee Jack Bruce (with Cream) has over four decades of experience playing nearly every style of music imaginable, from earthy British blues with [John Mayall](#) and Alexis Korner to blues-rock with Cream and West, Bruce & Laing; from jazz and jazz-fusion with Tony Williams Lifetime and John McLaughlin's Mahavishnu Orchestra; to pop with Manfred Mann and Donovan.

Bruce has also enjoyed a significant solo career, and through the years his Jack Bruce & Friends band can boast of members like former Jimi Hendrix Experience drummer Mitch Mitchell, jazz-fusion percussionist Billy Cobham, jazz guitarist Larry Coryell, and former Humble Pie fretburner Clem Clempson. In other words, the man has mad skills and everybody who is anybody has chosen to play with him.

Blues-Rock Guitar Legend

The blues-rock guitar legend Robin Trower needs no introduction. He first came to prominence during the early-1960s with the British R&B band the Paramounts. When his former Paramounts bandmate Gary Brooker needed musicians to round out the Procol Harum line-up, he called Trower, who would subsequently record five smash hit albums with the band between 1967 and 1972, before leaving to launch his solo career.

During the 1970s, Trower recorded ground-breaking and acclaimed psychedelic blues-rock albums like *Bridge of Sighs* and *Long Misty Days*, and *In City Dreams*, all of which would hit the *Billboard* magazine Top 40 album chart. During the 1980s, Trower largely dropped the [Jimi Hendrix](#)-inspired psychedelic edge to his music and turned his skills towards even more of a bluesy sound, and in the decades since has become one of the blues-rock genre's favorite instrumentalists. Trower released *What Lies Beneath*, his latest album and the first on which he takes up the microphone, in early 2009.



Jack Bruce & Robin Trower
Seven Moons Live DVD
Photo courtesy Ruf Records

Jack Bruce & Robin Trower's Seven Moons Live

The show starts with the DVD's namesake, "Seven Moons" opening with a brief guitar intro reminiscent of Hendrix's "Little Wing." The band falls into a power trio groove quite easily - Trower has been the base of such musical pyramids most of his decades-long career - and Bruce's voice is still a hearty, warm instrument. The deep groove of "Lives Of Clay" could pass for a long-lost Cream song, Bruce's vocals, the song's odd rhythm, and the heady bassline taking the listener back to 1968. Trower is a much different sort of guitarist than Clapton, tho', with a rich tone that tends to cut to the heart of the matter, whether through his stinging solos or with a monster riff.

"She's Not The One," one of the bonus tracks not included on the accompanying CD, is a houserockin', up-tempo Chicago-blues-via-old-London styled barn-burner. While Trower scrapes and tears at the strings, achieving vibrations sounding not unlike his early-70s work, Bruce's jackhammer bass notes pounce from your speakers and grab you by the ears.

Tripping Back In Time

When Bruce and Trower do take a trip back in time some forty years to revisit the Cream catalog, the results are predictably impressive. Beneath Bruce's familiar bass riff, Trower embroiders a raw, tough-as-nails solo on "Sunshine Of Your Love." Fingers low on the fretboard, the guitarist's instrument screams like a bird of prey descending on the unsuspecting audience. The song's big finish, with an extended instrumental crescendo, leaves the crowd speechless before they erupt into applause.

If the Bruce/Trower take on "Sunshine Of Your Love" was stunning, the band's cover of Cream's "White Room" is beyond adjectives. Bruce's well-worn bass riff and familiar vocals are complimented by the song's majestic soundtrack. Although Trower plays by the Clapton blueprint for much of the song, when he cuts loose with his cosmic solo, he takes ol' Slowhand's original outline into the stratosphere, bending strings and tearing off notes as if he's experiencing a dervish-like trance. Backed by Bruce's raging four strings and Husband's sledgehammer drumbeats, the guitarist transcends the song's classic rock roots and transforms it into something truly magical.

The Reverend's Bottom Line

The interplay between Trower's stinging leads and Bruce's ever-present bass tones is nearly seamless, the two musicians appearing, for all intents and purposes, like they've been performing alongside each other for years. Drummer Gary Husband is a solid timekeeper, seldom flashing or jumping over-the-top, but always apparent in the mix, complimenting the stringplay of the two superstar frontmen.

When Jack Bruce apologizes at the end of the show, saying "us old guys, we get it right eventually," it's perceived as a moment of levity by the audience...after all, these guys have seldom gotten it wrong, and what they accomplish with these fourteen songs is a brilliant fusion of electric blues and hard rock, delivering a breathtaking showcase of instrumental virtuosity that will entertain any viewer that enjoys guitar-driven blues-rock performances. (Ruf Records, released October 13, 2009)

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