

Eden Brent *Ain't Got No Troubles*

YELLOW DOG 1716

★★★½

Boogie-woogie and blues piano today? Former Muddy Waters Band regular Pinetop Perkins, though almost a century old, is the most acclaimed practitioner. Worthy of attention are two generations of players:

Mose Allison, Marcia Ball, Barrelhouse Chuck, Mark Lincoln Braun, Henry Butler, Dave Keyes, Erwin Helfer, Bob Lohr, Aaron Moore and, among more, Mitch Woods. The most outstanding of the up-and-comers is Eden Brent, a Mississippian whose second album, produced by Canadian roots-music kingpin Colin Linden, delivers on the promise of her debut, *Mississippi Number One* (2008).

A dozen songs display Brent's efficiency on the 88s. She boogies and slips into downcast or ebullient moods with conviction, never letting her transmission get stuck in overdrive like a virtuosic but empty showoff. Her playing seems as shaped by Professor Longhair as her beloved now-deceased mentor, Boogaloo Ames (who recorded with Cassandra Wilson and was fea-



tured with Brent in a documentary called *Sustaining The Sound*). While not commanding, Brent is a good singer with a nasally pinched, hurtful quality to her voice; she makes a secure connection whether having rowdy fun on the flag-waver "Let's Boogie-Woogie" or taking a fatalistic turn on "Leave Me Alone." These and other original

tunes prove that she knows the lay of the land emotion-wise. In addition, Brent packs convincing drama into the words of two ace songs of Nashville origin that exist just outside the sphere of blues: "Goodnight Moon" and "Right To Be Wrong." Everywhere, there's pleasing yeomen work to be had from guitarist Linden, Meters bassist George Porter Jr. and the other sidemen.

Still loosening up in the studio, Brent doesn't hit the bull's-eye this time, but she's close.

—Frank-John Hadley

Ain't Got No Troubles: Someone To Love; Ain't Got No Troubles; Blues All Over; Later Than You Think; Right To Be Wrong; Leave Me Alone; Let's Boogie-Woogie; My Man; Beyond My Broken Dreams; If I Can't; In Love With Your Wallet; Goodnight Moon. (45:50)

Personnel: Eden Brent, vocals, piano; Colin Linden, guitars; George Porter Jr., electric bass; Bryan Owings, drums; Jon Cleary, organ (6); Emile Hall, trumpet; Jeff Albert, trombone; Tracy Griffin, saxophone.

Ordering Info: yellowdogrecords.com