perb material that melds lyrical, musical, and technical expertise with panache and unerring artistic vision. Don't listen to the naysayers.

—David Whiteis

ALABAMA SLIM

Blue And Lonesome

Music Maker - MMCD133

Recorded druing 2006 and 2007, ***Blue And Lonesome*** is Alabama Slim's second release on Music Maker, and it is a good one. The album, which occasionally features back-up musicians and Slim's cousin, Little Freddie King, is as strong and consistent a release as Music Maker has put out. Alabama Slim is in fine form on the album's 12 mostly original songs (*Fannie Mae* and *Someday Baby* are different takes on the original versions). ***Blue And Lonesome*** is an introspective song conjuring images of after-hours, back-alley rambling in a country town where folks roll sidewalks up at dusk. That atmosphere continues on *Two O'Clock In The Morning* and *Weather Done Got Cloudy*. The album picks up a little with a hat tip to John Lee Hooker in *Old Folks Boogie* but rarely gets any faster lest the listener dislocate a hip. Another highlight of the album is *I Love My Guitar*, which is slick sounding, and thus a little out of place here, but still fun. Alabama Slim's ***Blue And Lonesome*** is a simple but meditative outing from one of Music Maker's more enigmatic artists.

—Mark Coltrain

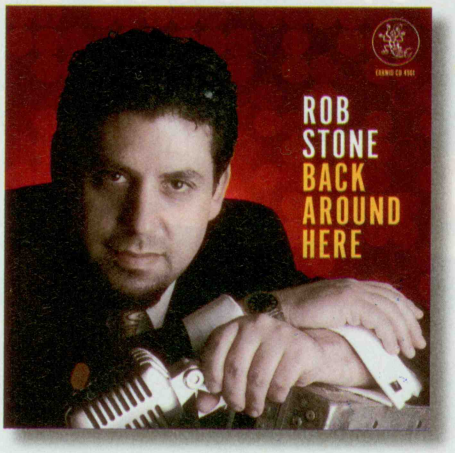
ROB STONE

Back Around Here

Earwig - 4961

Listening to classic postwar Chicago blues revivalist Rob Stone's first studio record in seven years, ***Back Around Here***, you can't help but recall the vocal inflection Muddy Waters had when he sang "she moves me, man" back in 1952. Stone's got that shrewd, slow-flaring drawl about him, and a harp to match. It's downright chilling how Stone captures the sound of the golden age of Chess Records with a big, warm analog thump and a delivery that comes straight out of a long-since-passed South Side haunt like Theresa's or Pepper's.

Stone, a regular performer at Chicago's House of Blues and co-founder of the traditionalist outfit the C-Notes, takes the romp



of 1950s Chicago and punctuates it with a grinding funk flair a la Junior Wells and soul variation that relies heavily on a Sam Cooke–inspired R&B tinge. Stone's C-Notes bandmates Chris James and Patrick Rynn are central to the ambience of the record, contributing guitar and bass respectively. Other notable cast members include Willie "Big Eyes" Smith on select drum tracks and pianist David Maxwell, whose plinking keys help shuffle along the flippant boogie on many of the tracks. A cover of Magic Sam's *Give Me Time* bubbles with precision-laced soul and a killer quiver, while *Chicago All Night* celebrates the town's after-hours debauchery with a growling sax-fueled blues rumba. Other standouts include the lung-scarring harmonica instrumental *Dragon Killers*, where Stone's licks fly like shards of glass through the air, and the early rock 'n' roll-themed jump of *Can't Turn Back The Clock*—originally done by the "5" Royales.

Back Around Here sounds like a time-capsule piece, recorded at 2120 South Michigan Avenue, with the cigarette of Leonard Chess illuminating the studio control room, while Rob Stone lays down a torrid harp run in front of a smirking, bass-pumping Willie Dixon. If there was any justice, Rob Stone would be one of the guys bringing this music back to its rightful stature.

—Mark Uricheck

JOHNNY MOELLER

BlooGaLoo

Severn - Severn CD 0049

Austin, Texas, has long been one of the great musical melting pots of the U.S. Country, blues, rock, and other assorted genres co-exist and mutate freely there, with musicians soaking up the sounds like guitar-wielding spong-

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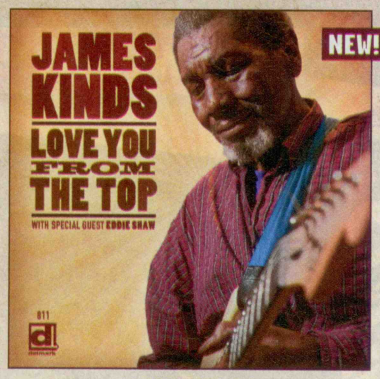
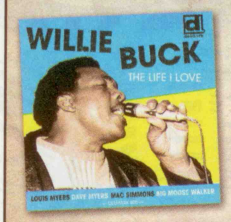


JAMES KINDS
Love You From The Top (CD 811)
with **EDDIE SHAW**

James Kinds was born in Drew, Mississippi in 1943. He moved to Chicago in '59 and quickly got involved in music, performing often in the West side clubs. On this recording, his first for Delmark, Kinds delivers raw, funky and soulful electric blues with a distinctive, powerful voice.

STUDEBAKER JOHN'S MAXWELL STREET KINGS
That's The Way You Do (CD 810)

Maxwell Street Kings pay homage to the early days of Chicago Blues, when musical giants like Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, and Hound Dog Taylor could be heard in steamy clubs on the city's south and west sides. The Kings capture the spirit of that era when Chicago Blues were raw, primal, and oh so vital. With **Rick Kreher** & **Steve Cushing**.



PLUS!

WILLIE BUCK
The Life I Love (CD 805)
Genuine Chicago Blues with **Louis Myers, Dave Myers, Mac Simmons** and **Big Moose Walker!**
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