

A Blues Tribute To Creedence Clearwater Revival (2014)

Written by bluesever

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1. Mike Zito, Sonny Landreth – *Fortunate Son* 2. The Mynabirds – *Bad Moon Rising* 3. Blitzen Trapper – *Proud Mary* 4. Spirit Family Reunion – *Down On The Corner* 5. Dead Man Winter – *Have You Ever Seen The Rain* 6. Leroux – *Looking Out My Back Door* 7. Duke Robillard – *Who'll Stop The Rain* 8. South Memphis String Band – *Up Around The Bend* 9. Will Wilde – *Susie Q* 10. Smokin' Joe Kubek – *Run Through The Jungle* 11. Kirk Fletcher – *Green River* 12. Trampled Under Foot – *Born On The Bayou*

I can't say that I was ever a big fan of CCR but when they hit in the late 60s they were a refreshing contrast to the heavy-rock, prog-rock and jazz-rock that was around at the time with their basic straight-ahead rock and roll sound. I didn't find this 'blues tribute' CD particularly bluesy and even though CCR's songs were relatively simple I found that most of the versions here didn't have the undeniable charm of the original records. This is certainly an interesting collection of artists, not the usual tribute subjects, and many of them do try different approaches to the CCR legacy rather than just trying to recreate the originals - which I think is a good thing.

CCR's most famous song is probably "Bad moon rising" and the Mynabirds version is a complete power-pop rebuild, which for me doesn't quite come off however, Blitzen Trapper give the equally famous "Proud Mary" an electronic synthesiser makeover which shouldn't work but surprisingly does. I also liked Spirit Family Reunion's down-home acoustic work-out on "Down on the corner", LaRoux's rocking New Orleans-style "Looking out my backdoor" and Trampled Under Foot's funky "Born on the Bayou" and also the South Memphis String Band's "Up around the bend" - although this was hardly the sound of a string band. Elsewhere I wasn't as enamoured by the tracks by the more blues-leaning artists - I thought that Mike Zito/Sonny Landreth's version of "Fortunate son" was a bit cluttered - I didn't really see why Mike needed Sonny on guitar when he is a fine guitarist himself. The songs by British harp player Will Wilde, guitarists Kirk Fletcher, Smokin' Joe Kubek and Bnois King I just found very average, despite good playing from all of them. --- G. E. Harrison, amazon.com

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