

Mighty Sam McClain – Blues For The Soul (2000)

Written by bluesever

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1. *All We Need Is Love* [play](#) 2. *Dark Side of the Street* 3. *Love One Another* 4. *Going Back to New Orleans* 5. *No One Can Take Your Place* 6. *Jesus Got the Blues* 7. *Sweet Lady* 8. *Battlefield of Love* 9. *Mighty's Prayer* [play](#) 10. *Sing Me Some Blues* 11. *Can't Stand It* 12. *Not I*

Personnel: Mighty Sam McClain (vocals); Kevin Belz (guitar); Bruce Katz (piano, Hammond B-3 organ); Barry Seleen (Hammond B-3 organ); Tim Ingles (bass); Jim Arnold (drums).
The Mighty Horns: Chuck Langford (tenor saxophone); Walter Platt, Joe Casano (trumpet); Kenny Wenzel (trombone).

All those young up-and-comers who think they know how to sing R&B and soul should really get themselves a dose of Mighty Sam McClain. The man waited years to record any albums (though there were a few singles in the 1960s), but it's been worth the wait. „Blues for the Soul” is McClain's first for Telarc Records, and it's a near-perfect debut. The slower, lazier songs are ideal for the heat of summer, but one could just as easily imagine listening to McClain in a dark, smoky nightclub in November. His voice is strong, but so smooth that at first you don't notice, and his backing band knows exactly how to support him; they're tight and on the money, but never overwhelming. McClain's perspective is quirky, yet mature, as exemplified by "Jesus Got the Blues" and "Sweet Lady" (in the latter, he sings the praises of smart women--recognizing that beauty's a transient thing, but brains last a lifetime). While there's no doubt he's passionate about his music, McClain's solid record is all the more appealing for its unassuming presentation. --*Genevieve Williams*

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