Carlos Del Junco Band – Up and at 'Em (2001)



1 11 Songo Blues 3:44 2 That Train Don't Stop Here 4:45 3 How High the Moon 3:39 4 Up and at 'Em 3:40 play *5 Moliendo Cafe 3:21 6 Donald Michael 4:11 7 Bingo 4:19* play *8 Some Sweet Day 3:27 9 The Field 6:15 10 Tumbleweed Tea 4:09 11 Mariachi 4:45*
Personnel: Carlos del Junco Band (vocals, harmonica); Jane Siberry (vocals); Kevin Breit (acoustic guitar, electric guitar, National guitar, mandolin, omnichord); Mark Sepic (acoustic guitar, nylon-string guitar, triangle); Denis Keldie (accordion, keyboards); Russell Boswell (acoustic bass, electric bass); Jorn Anderson, Al Cross (drums); Arturo Avalos, Armando Borg (percussion).

Although a studio recording, the songs within this album have an extremely live sound to them, as if each was recorded within one or two takes. Putting his fingers in a few genre pies, the album takes flight with the salsa Latin percussion featured in "11 Songo Blues" before heading back into familiar blues territory on some standards. A surprise guest appearance by Jane Siberry on "How High the Moon" is rather eclectic, starting off slow before a scat-like structure takes control. The playing of del Junco is honed to suit the needs of his supporting cast, often acting as a small but vital ingredient to the music's heart, carrying the title track. The jump in a tune such as "Some Sweet Day" is only eclipsed by the lighter, more melodic notes found in "Donald Michael" and "The Field." And as an added bonus, those wanting to learn the songs can refer to both the harmonica keys and positions noted in the liner notes. An engaging sonic nightcap. ---Jason MacNeil, AMG

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