Michael Packer - Best Of The Michael Packer Blues Band (2006)

1.Recovered Soul 3:06 2.Took My Gun 4:42 3.I Can't Keep From Cryin' 3:51 4.Straight To Her Heart 4:39 5.Roll With The Punches 2:55 6.Gotta Go (Chicago, New Orleans) 6:00 7.Christmas On The Bowery 5:07 8.All Along The Watchtower 4:25 9.Bleecker Street 4:25 10.I'm Torn Down 6:51 11.The Thrill Is Gone 5:03 12.Somebody Have Mercy 4:48 Michael Packer – guitar, vocals David Maxwell – piano Lou Marini, Jimmy Vivino, Felix Cabrera – harp

The Michael Packer Blues Band recorded 3 albums from 2003 to 2006. Featured here on 'The Best Of' are tracks from 'No use Running from the Blues' and the highly acclaimed 'Bleecker-Bowery' CD which includes Packer's remake of Bob Dylan's 'All Along the Watchtower'and the Michael Packer - Nick Gravenites song 'Born in New York City' now known as one of the most popular songs about New York.

Michael Packer is a singer, songwriter, and guitarist who was born in New York City in 1950. After doing his first gig at the Bitter End in Greenwich Village at the age of 15, he formed and recorded with numerous groups throughout the late '60s, '70s, and '80s, including Papa Nebo (with saxophonist Bob Mintzer of the Grammy Award-winning Yellowjackets), Free Beer, and Coolstep. He also worked with the likes of the Atlanta Rhythm Section, Johnny Rivers, Dr. Hook, Clifton Chanier, and the Matt Murphy Band.

After dropping out of the music scene in the late 80's and early 90's, Packer hit the skids. His drinking had escalated and he found himself living on the streets. He did a year in Rikers Island

for attempted robbery, but that seemed to be the turning point in his life. Even in prison he had a band.

Packer has been sober 16 years now and life is good - especially his music. He has become a well-known and respected member of the New York City blues scene, and his blues band has received rave reviews in Living Blues, Blues Matters, and Blues Revue magazines. He has released numerous albums, including an anthology of his recordings, which came out in 2008. Packer has also recently found a new home with the Chicago blues label Blue Skunk Music, which has released his new CD Free Beer. As a result of this release, Packer now has the honor of playing second guitar and touring with the two-time Grammy Award-winning legendary Delta blues guitarist David "Honeyboy" Edwards, who knew and played alongside Robert Johnson. To top it all off, Packer will be inducted into The Blues Hall Of Fame on September 25th, 2011. ---bbkingblues.com

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