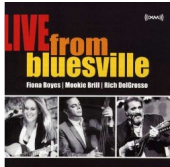


Fiona Boyes, Mookie Brill, Rich Delgrosso – Live From Bluesville (2008)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 20 October 2011 09:07 - Last Updated Saturday, 23 January 2021 16:53

Fiona Boyes, Mookie Brill, Rich Delgrosso – Live From Bluesville 2008



01. *Early In the Morning* 02. *Homegrown Sin* [play](#) 03. *Hard To Live With* 04. *Smokestack Lightning* 05. *Easy Baby* 06. *Shotgun Blues* 07. *My Baby Left Me* [play](#)
08. *Good Lord Made You So* 09. *Get Your Nose Outta My Bizness!* 10. *Mississippi Road* 11. *Two Legged Dog*
Fiona Boyes – guitar, vocals Mookie Brill – double bass Rich Delgrosso – mandolin, vocals

In blues & roots music there is a tantalizing tension between traditional structures and the continual reinvention that comes with each new generation of players. There are so many styles and histories from which to draw - and each player brings their own particular influences and sensibilities to their performance. In that spirit, 'live from bluesville' offers the listener an experience of respect for tradition and daring originality. Seasoned players and multi-award winning artists in their own right, fiona boyes, tom 'mookie' brill, and rich delgrosso, following a session on beale st. Memphis, during the 2007 blues music awards, decided to further explore the spaces where their respective musical influences and passions meet, and this album is the result. ---cduniverse.com

Playing amplified blues-rock has not been a problem for Fiona Boyes, but the flexible singer/guitarist is equally proficient when it comes to providing acoustic blues--and that is exactly what she does on LIVE FROM BLUESVILLE. In fact, Boyes plays acoustic blues exclusively on this 48-minute CD, which finds her forming an intimate trio with Tom "Mookie" Brill (lead vocals, acoustic bass, harmonica) and Rich DelGrosso (lead vocals, mandolin). Contrary to what the title suggests, this isn't a live album in the conventional sense; LIVE FROM BLUESVILLE wasn't recorded in a club or theater or in front of an audience, but rather in

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a Washington, D.C. studio in 2007. However, all the performances were recorded in real time--no overdubbing whatsoever--and the rugged spirit of acoustic country blues often prevails thanks to Boyes, Brill, and DelGrosso (who share the lead vocals, although Boyes` singing dominates the session). However, they don` t embrace any one type of acoustic country blues exclusively.

Mississippi Delta blues is part of the equation, but so are Texas blues and Louisiana blues. And occasionally, the album demonstrates that acoustic blues doesn` t necessarily mean country blues. Howlin` Wolf`s "Smokestack Lightning" is a Chess Records gem that blues connoisseurs closely identify with electric post-WWII Chicago blues, but the unplugged version offered by Boyes, Brill, and DelGrosso re-imagines the tune as acoustic blues from Chicago`s pre-WWII, pre-Chess, pre-Willie Dixon era. They also acknowledge the Windy City`s pre-Chess artists with inspired performances of Sonny Boy Williamson`s "Early in the Morning" and Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup`s "My Baby Left Me." Clearly, this trio is well aware of the fact that the blues were alive and well in Chicago long before the seminal Chess became so influential and helped pave the way for the creation of rock & roll. But whether the influences are rural or urban, LIVE FROM BLUESVILLE maintains a happily unplugged focus--and Boyes excels as both a singer and an acoustic guitarist. --- overstock.com

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