

Kelly Bell Band - Chasing The Sun (2002)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Chasing the Sun* 1:02 2 *Spinnin'* 2:56 3 *Rain No More* 3:40 4 *Movin' On* 4:07 5
Popstar 4:11 6 *Hey Babel* 3:10 7 *Longtime (Glory of Love)* 4:03 8 *How Long* 3:41 9
Outside 3:01 10 *Last Words* 0:38 11 *Walked Right Out!* 3:38 12 *Same Ol' Thang* 2:50
13 *Movin' On (Acoustic Reprise)* 2:34 14 *Good for What Ails You?* 1:50 15 *Going to the
Valley* 5:55 Kelly Bell - vocals Kirk Myers - keyboards Ira Mayfield - guitar Freddie Louden
- bass Spencer Brown - drums

Fronted by an imposingly large, dreadlocked singer, the Kelly Bell Band secured a place as the Baltimore area's premier live party band by the end of the 1990s. Formed in 1995 in a city with no less than eight colleges or universities, Bell's good-time blend of rock and funk found a ready, and usually intoxicated, audience. The band's first gigs included backing up Bo Diddley.

A Baltimore-area native, Bell has aided his band's reputation by forging a major public presence working as a mentor to troubled youth and appearing regularly as a featured sit-in guest on a popular local rock station's morning show. That act in itself held major significance. Baltimore has always been a musically segregated town dominated by white, working- to middle-class folks into classic rock and heavy metal. The regular appearance of a local black artist on the city's premier white rock station (one of the show's personalities is also black) signaled a leap forward in a city that has had a difficult time recovering from the death of hair metal a decade before.

KBB released their debut album, *Phat Blues Music*, in August of 1998 on the upstart regional distributor Fowl Records formed by Jimmie's Chicken Shack leader and entrepreneur Jimi Haha. It remained for the next two years as one of the best-selling locally released CDs in Baltimore's history and a staple of college dorm CD players across the city and region. Three years later, the group issued *Ain't Like It Used to Be*. --- John Duffy, allmusic.com

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Voted the Best Blues Band in the Mid Atlantic Region 12 years in a row, the Kelly Bell Band from Baltimore, Maryland is “among the most genre-expanding acts on today’s blues scene. Who else can combine elements of hip-hop, funk, and blues-electrified here, Delta there, horn driven elsewhere- and still manage to sound sincere? A forward view of the way blues is transitioning in today’s scene...Bell’s an honest poet and an outstanding singer with lots to say. ---Blues Revue Magazine, last.fm

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