

Amy Hart – Live At The Mayne Stage (2015)

Written by bluesever

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01. *In The Zone* (5:14) 02. *Blues At The Top Of The World* (3:08) 03. *Get Ready* (3:10) 04. *Put Me Back* (5:14) 05. *Blue Eyed Blues* (3:21) 06. *Ribcage* (4:02) 07. *Red Dress Blues* (4:24) 08. *Get The Girls Dancin'* (4:55) 09. *Even Country Gets The Blues* (4:39) 10. *Congratulations* (6:36) 11. *Rich Ass Daddy* (4:02) 12. *You Drive Me* (4:40) Amy Hart – guitar, vocals Wally Hoffmann - bass PT Gazell – harmonica Gene Bush – dobro Matt McDowell – drums

Amy Hart was born and raised in Chicago. She began her musical career at the family piano at age 2. When she was in high school she began playing guitar and writing songs. Her first professional gig was in 1979 with Flash Point, a west side Chicago Blues Band. Her first appearance was at Mayor Jane Byrne's Summertime Chicago Concert Series on Broadway at the Armory in Chicago. She was soon a regular on the Blues stages, playing at Kingston Mines on Lincoln Avenue and at B.L.U.E.S. with Junior Wells. She has also opened for Koko Taylor and James Cotton. She entered and won the WLUP sponsored Chicago Rocks Contest twice and released two compilation records with the radio station. She took her music to California to work with producer John Ryan (Doobie Brothers, Santana) and released a song on the Mercury Records Soundtrack "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" in 1985. The song "Too Cruel" was co written by Tim Tobias and Amy and Tim were a duo for some time performing in L.A. In the early nineties Amy moved to Lake Tahoe and played the ski resorts and casinos for a season before heading to Nashville to develop and record her own sound.

In 1999 she started her own label, Painted Rock Records and released her first solo cd in 2000. "Every Beat of My Heart" was critically acclaimed. The title track is a haunting ballad written for her mother who had passed in 1998. Amy Hart lived in Destin FL for ten years playing and supporting herself and her daughter on the music scene. In 2011 her daughter graduated high school within weeks of the Horizon Oil Spill, which devastated the local economy. The pair headed up to Chicago. Her daughter enrolled in Columbia College, and Amy was offered a deal on Out The Box Records.

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It looked like her return to Chicago was going to be smooth and easy, but there were problems between the label and the studio that she decided not to get between. So she drove back to Music City with 40 bucks in her pocket and lived above a barn until she got her finances together and then she started cutting tracks.

Her second cd, "CONGRATULATIONS" released in 2011 on Painted Rock Records gained her wider recognition in the Blues arena. The title track was inspired by the challenges she faced during her move, being homeless for a time and her ultimate redemption. She spent the next four years writing and touring with her band based in Nashville. She was tapped to headline the Himalayan Blues Fest in 2012. Other cities she tours include Atlanta, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Pensacola, Charlotte, Asheville, Knoxville, Memphis and Chicago.

Her band rocks many famous Blues clubs including BB Kings, The Hard Rock Cafe, Bradfordville Blues Club, The Double Door Inn, The Paradise, and Ground Zero Blues Club and The Kings Palace on Beale Street. In 2014 She was invited to perform at The Mayne Stage in Chicago for "Music From The Mayne Stage" which will air on PBS Spring 2015.

Her third cd, "Live At The Mayne Stage" will be released March 24, 2015 by Vizztone Label Group and Painted Rock Records. This new cd delivers a fresh sound with Gene Bush on Dobro, Grammy nominated PT Gazell on Harp, husband Wally Hoffmann on Upright Bass and Matt McDowell on Drums. Her raw sound is leaning in a Roots/Americana/Country direction, but still strongly Blues influenced. This album offers gentler covers of some songs from 2011's Congratulations and several new unrecorded songs. Its reminiscent of an outdoor summer night concert... complete with fireflies and heat lighting on the horizon. --- amyhart.com

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