

Shaun Murphy - Cry Of Love (2013)

Written by bluesever
Friday, 05 April 2019 13:48 -

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1. *I Wouldn't Treat a Dog (The Way You Treated Me)* 3:16 2. *Gotta Mind to Travel* 3:07 3. *Broken Things* 5:21 4. *Can't Stop Lovin' My Baby* 3:11 5. *Go Back to Your Used to Be* 4:03 6. *I'm a Woman* 4:45 7. *Cry to Me* 4:45 8. *Nickel and a Nail* 3:54 9. *You Can't Hide from Truth* 3:34 10. *Somewhere Between Right and Wrong* 3:44 11. *I'm a Little Mixed Up* 2:49
Bass, Vocals - Randy Coleman Drums - Tom DelRossi Guitar - Kenne Cramer, Shawn Starski
Harp - Tim Gonzalez Keyboards - Johnn Wallum Vocals - Shaun Murphy

Fresh from her sweep of the Bluesblast Music Awards; Female Blues Artist Of The Year & Contemporary Blues Album Of The Year, she has recorded some of her favorite songs in this new CD, *Cry Of Love*. It embodies a range from a whisper to a scream, the very thing she's known for in her live performances. ---cdbaby.com

Valentine's Day is coming up, and what better way to celebrate it than with Michigan maven Shaun Murphy's "Cry of Love"? Her double win (the only double win) in last year's Blues Blast Music Awards, with Best Female Blues Artist of the Year and Best Contemporary Blues Album of the Year, is a daunting feat upon which to build her Blues career. Nevertheless, she is more than up to this Olympic-sized challenge. One of the reasons is her remarkable blues and blues-rock pedigree. She's toured with such legends as Eric Clapton, Bob Seger, Joe Walsh, Bruce Hornsby, Glenn Frey and the Moody Blues. From 1993 to 2009, she was also the lead singer for the iconic '70's band Little Feat. As if that weren't enough, the inexhaustible passion and energy she pours into her music seem to come from a higher power. Thirdly, even though all eleven selections on "Cry of Love" are covers, she gives fans countless reasons to fall 'head-over-heels' for her heartfelt interpretations of each one. The following three songs present Shaun Murphy's vocals in three distinct styles: poignant, pointed and powerhouse.

Track 03: “Broken Things” – This heartstring-tugging ballad by Julie Miller is a love song for the Lord, who takes an interest in the objects mentioned in the title. “You can have my heart; oh, it isn’t new. It’s been used and broken, and it only comes in blue,” our narrator confesses, her voice rolling like a river in a rainstorm. Backing her up are John Wallum’s inspired organ and piano keyboards, which may make one imagine a church rather than a nightclub. Prayer isn’t only done silently, as Shaun Murphy brilliantly shows.

Track 05: “Go Back to Your Used To Be” – In her rendition of Jessie Mae Hemphill’s hit, Murphy’s voice is whiskey-sour: “I know you’ve been wandering, baby, sitting on the side of my bed. You’re drinking old Johnnie Walker, babe, don’t remember a word you said....” Kenne Cramer on acoustic guitar and Tim Gonzalez on harmonica complete this gritty ditty, which stings like hard liquor in the throat. It’s very easy on the ears, though.

Track 08: “Nickel and a Nail” – These are the contents of our hard-luck hero’s pockets, as Shaun launches into a sordid story composed by Deadric Malone, Vernon Morrison, and Don Robey: “My friends, they just don’t know. They still, deep down in their hearts, they think I’m doing swell. They don’t know...All you hear me jingle is a nickel and a nail.” No one wants to be abandoned by one’s partner and one’s pocketbook simultaneously.

Romance may come and go, but the blues lasts forever. Formidable Shaun Murphy proves it time and again, demonstrating that a “Cry of Love” doesn’t have to be all ‘hearts and flowers’! ---Rainey Wetnight, bluesblastmagazine.com

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