

## The Charles Ford Band - As Real As It Gets (1996)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Gibson Creek Shuffle* 11:06 2 *Look Over Yonders Wall* (Guitar [First Solo] – Michael Osborn) 5:30 3 *Driftin' Blues* 16:29 4 *Killer Joe* 10:12 5 *All Those Blues* 3:26 6 *40 Days 40 Nights* 9:53 7 *That Will Never Do* 6:40 8 *All Your Love* 5:30 Bass – Stan Poplin  
Drums – Patrick Ford Guitar, Vocals – Robben Ford Harmonica, Vocals – Mark Ford  
Keyboards [Guest] – Russel Ferrante

Charles Ford isn't in the Charles Ford Band. His sons are: Robben on vocals and guitar, Mark on harmonica and Pat on drums. Their friend, Stan Poplin, plays bass.

Robben Ford, of course, is the sole practitioner of a Southern California brand of jazzy blues that can peel the paint or soothe the soul in a single outing. It's homogenized, but it still has bite.

The Charles Ford Band broke up in the late 1970s when Robben joined Joni Mitchell's band. *As Real As It Gets* is a live recording of a pair of 1983 reunion gigs.

For the most part, it's what you'd expect from a Robben Ford-fronted band, and most of his fans will come away satisfied.

Be aware, however, that the material sticks to a democratic format: Each song features lengthy and often wandering solos by Robben and Mark Ford and special guest Russell Ferrante, the keyboardist in the Yellowjackets, a pop/jazz band that once included Robben Ford.

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Two problems: Ferrante plays an electric piano that often comes off sounding like a video game, and Mark Ford's harmonica solos are w-a-a-a-y too long. Less would definitely be more.

Still, Robben Ford's contributions are worth the wait. --- bluesaccess.com

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