John Brim I – Ice Cream Man (1994)

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1 Ice Cream Man 3:00 2 Jump With Me 4:03 3 Lonesome Man Blues 3:40 4 Tough Times 3:09 5 Wake Up America 3:32 6 This Old Hangover 2:44 7 Old Time Boogie 3:06 8 Be Careful 3:08 9 Standin' Around Cryin' 4:13 10 Messin' Around 3:50 11 Can't Hold Out Much Longer 3:20 12 I Wonder Why 3:44 13 Goin' Down Slow 4:50 John Brim (Guitar, Vocals) Bob Margolin (Guitar) Jerry Portnoy (Harmonica) Tom Brill (Bass, Harmonica) Anthony Geraci (Piano) Wes Johnson (Drums) Michael Ward (Bass) Tino Barker (Sax Baritone) Gordon "Sax" Beadle, T. David Cunningham (Sax Tenor)

Brim's vocals don't quite possess the same snap, crackle, and pop that they did in the mid-'50s, but thanks to a savvy song selection and sympathetic backing by the likes of guitarist Bob Margolin and harpist Jerry Portnoy, Brim's comeback album is a generally successful project. ---Bill Dahl, AllMusic Review

John Brim made several classic Chicago blues recordings in the 1950s, and he occasionally has surfaced over the past four decades. He guested on Bob Margolin's recent Alligator album and Margolin has helped Brim with this, his first ever full album.

Margolin is joined by harmonica player Jerry Portnoy and others to help Brim reprise three of his Parrot/Chess recordings, Tough Times, Ice Cream Man and Be Careful. Margolin's presence is major a factor in why this captures much of the feel of Brim's fifties recordings on these three, on Brim's originals (the topical Wake Up America) and versions of Muddy Water's Standin' Around Cryin' (with splendid Margolin slide) and Little Walter's Can't Hold Out Much Longer.

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Brim, like Jimmy Rogers, sings in a cleanly articulated, relaxed manner.

While he may sound a tad rusty four decades older, he still sings with a warm, relaxed honesty. Margolin's dedication to perpetuating the classic Chicago blues sound makes this a solid session of interest to any with an interest in Chicago blues. ---inabluemood.blogspot.com

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