The Blues Project – Live At Town Hall (1967)

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A1 Introduction   A2 (Electric) Flute Thing   A3 I Can't Keep From Crying   A4 Mean Old Southern   B1 No Time Like The Right Time   B2 Love Will Endure   B3 Where There's Smoke, There's Fire   B4 Wake Me, Shake Me   Line Up: *Danny Kalb - Lead Guitar, Vocals *Al Kooper - Organ, Vocals *Steve Katz - Rhythm Guitar *Roy Blumenfeld - Drums *Andy Kulberg – Bass

The Blues Project came together in NYC's Greenwich Village in 1965. The original quintet was guitarists Danny Kalb and Steve Katz, bass and flautist Andy Kulberg, drummer Roy Blumenfeld and vocalist Tommy Flanders. Session musician Al Kooper joined after the band failed a COLUMBIA audition. Although his keyboard skills were limited, Kooper contributed respectable vocals and good original songs.

In 1966, they recorded "Live At Cafe Au Go Go" and "Projections" for the Verve Forecast label. By early '67 when work began on "The Blues Project Live At Town Hall" (FT/FTS 3025), Kooper had left the group (Katz followed him later in the year).

There's only one cut here actually recorded at Town Hall. The balance is other "live" a performances at Stony Brook College, plus studio tracks with added applause. Kooper's "No Time Like the Right Time," the group's only charting single, is a studio take augmented with applause that's reminiscent of the Animals. "Mean Old Southern" rolls as fast as an express train at full throttle. The extended "Flute Thing" opens with organ and flute playing in unison.

"I Can't Keep From Crying" is a fairly standard rocker. "Love Will Endure" features Katz's baritone vocal. It's another simulated "live" recording. "Where There's Smoke" is a decent

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Written by bluesever
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Kooper leftover. The album closing "Wake Me, Shake Me" nicely illustrates how Blues Project sounded in-concert: tight, intense and improvisational. --- Annie Van Auken, rockasteria.blogspot.com

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