

Debbie Davies – Blues Blast (2007)

Written by bluesever

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1. *A.C. Strut* (Coco Montoya) 2. *My Time After Awhile* (Coco Montoya) 3. *Sittin' and Cryin'* (Coco Montoya, Charlie Musselwhite) 4. *Movin' & Groovin'* (Charlie Musselwhite) 5. *Crawling King Snake* (Tab Benoit) 6. *Howlin' For My Darlin'* (Tab Benoit) 7. *Like You Was Gone* (Coco Montoya) 8. *Where the Blues Come To Die* (Coco Montoya, Tab Benoit, Charlie 9. *Sonoma Sunset* (Coco Montoya, Tab Benoit, Charlie Musselwhite) Personnel: Debbie Davies (vocals, guitar); Debbie Davies; Bruce Katz (Hammond b-3 organ); Rod Carey (bass guitar); Tab Benoit (vocals, guitar); Charlie Musselwhite (vocals, harmonica); Coco Montoya (guitar); Per Hanson (drums).

Any blues fan dedicated to live music will testify that when musicians play with their peers, the energy rises a few notches. That's the concept behind this meeting of the minds hosted by guitarist Debbie Davies. Fellow string-benders Tab Benoit and Coco Montoya (both have worked with her previously) join harmonica veteran Charlie Musselwhite and let the resulting fireworks naturally explode. Typically, these projects wind up being overdubbed affairs, a process that dilutes and often negates the concept. But except for a few instances, largely with Benoit, Davies and her musical friends assembled in the studio, resulting in the titular explosion. Both Montoya and Davies apprenticed under Albert Collins, and the opening "A.C. Strut" captures the Texas blues legend's loose shuffle style as the guitarists trade sizzling licks. Montoya and Musselwhite join for "Sittin' and Cryin'," a finger-snapping Davies original where the harpist tears into a limber and authentic Little Walter-styled solo topped only by the next track, his own "Movin' & Groovin'," to which he also contributes lead vocals. Davies turns the microphone over to Benoit on John Lee Hooker's "Crawling King Snake," moving the proceedings down to the muggy Louisiana swamps. But when the participants join on "Like You Was Gone," the summit cooks. The closing 10-minute romp on a slow, minor-key instrumental "Sonoma Sunset" again finds the foursome swapping licks as the temperature progressively intensifies and the resulting jam shoots through the roof. ---Hal Horowitz, Rovi

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