

## Elvin Bishop - Elvin Bishop's Big Fun Trio (2017)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 01 April 2017 08:43 - Last Updated Saturday, 16 January 2021 09:56

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01. *Keep On Rollin'* (4:36) 02. *Honey Babe* (2:46) 03. *It's You, Baby* (2:11) 04. *Ace In The Hole* (2:34) 05. *Let's Go* (4:35) 06. *Delta Lowdown* (3:00) 07. *It's All Over Now* (3:36) 08. *100 Years Of Blues* (4:53) 09. *Let The Four Winds Blow* (3:24) 10. *That's What I'm Talkin' About* (5:02) 11. *Can't Take No More* (3:15) 12. *Southside Slide* (2:40) Elvin Bishop - Guitar and Vocals Willy Jordan - Cajon and Vocals Bob Welsh - Guitar and Piano + Kim Wilson - Harmonica on "It's You, Baby" Rick Estrin - Harmonica on "Delta Lowdown" Charlie Musselwhite - Harmonica and Vocals on "100 Years Of Blues"

Bishop told The San Jose Mercury News, "Every time I pick up the guitar, something new comes out of it. I guess you'd call me a late bloomer. When you get to be my age, you're not expecting to be progressing or coming up with any new ideas, but for some reason, I'm lucky enough that that's what's happening to me."

Elvin Bishop's Big Fun Trio is among his very best musical ideas ever. The music is rootsy, spirited and soulful, performed by serious musicians hell-bent on having a good time. Elvin Bishop's Big Fun Trio features Bishop's down-home delivery, deep blues picking and slide guitar playfully meshing with Welsh's piano and guitar licks and Jordan's soul singing and propulsive cajón playing. The album's laid-back, front-porch vibe mixes four rollicking Bishop originals with three co-writes and five raucous, well-chosen covers of songs by Lightnin' Hopkins, Fats Domino, Sunnyland Slim, Ted Taylor and Bobby Womack. And because one can never have too much fun, Bishop's pals Kim Wilson, Charlie Musselwhite and Rick Estrin stop by the sessions, each adding his distinctive harmonica talent (and in Musselwhite's case, vocals too) to a song. Listening to the proceedings, it's easy to see why the Chicago Sun-Times enthusiastically declared, "It's impossible not to like Bishop. He's always singing something lowbrow and uplifting."

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When it comes to the formation of The Big Fun Trio, it's best to let Elvin tell the story himself: Me and a couple of fellas got to jamming in my studio one day and we lucked up on The Big Fun Trio. I knew Willy Jordan from when he played percussion on some of my albums, and I liked his singing and rhythm feel. This time he brought a cajón, a South American percussion instrument. It's a square box you sit on to play it, and he got some amazing sounds out of it—bass drum, snare, anything—and he's a real strong singer. Bob Welsh is a member of my regular band, an amazing talent. He plays great guitar or piano and can get a tremendous "bass" sound on his guitar.

In a trio, there's no place to hide. You need to be totally into it all the time and you got to have the right guys. The combination of the three of us clicked big time. We went out and played a couple of gigs, and it was really cool to see how the people reacted to the goin'-for-it feel of the music.

We decided we better make a CD, so here 'tis. We enjoyed the hell out of playing this music, and we hope you do the same listening to it. --- bluesmagazine.nl

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