

Monster Mike Welch - These Blues Are Mine (1996)

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01. Freezer Burn - 2:25 02. These Blues Are Mine - 3:40 03. It Might Not Be Me - 3:48 04. I Forget - 4:20 05. Texas Girl - 3:37 06. Lover And A Friend - 2:47 07. Jessie's Blues - 4:30 08. Looking Back - 2:45 09. Honest Love - 3:43 10. Keep On Doing - 2:59 11. Leroy's Mood - 3:38 12. Cold Poison - 11:01
Monster Mike Welch - Composer, Guitar, Vocals George Lewis - Composer, Guitar, Guitar (Rhythm) Jon Ross – Bass Warren David Grant – Drums

He was only 16 years old at the time of release, but you wouldn't know it from the way he plays guitar -- this kid has the chops some seasoned professionals dream of, and has gained a lot of respect for them. The big problem comes when he opens his mouth to sing -- he does a credible job of trying to nail down that rough blues vocal tone, but he more often than not sounds just like a kid trying to get to a grown-up voice. Meanwhile, his band is well-worn and the songwriting is definitely up to par. --- Steven McDonald, Rovi

Mike Welch started playing guitar when he was eight. This led to his presence at local Boston blues jams by age 11. He played at the opening of Boston's House of Blues when he was 13. Shortly thereafter, he became known as the house prodigy of Dan Aykroyd and the House of Blues management. In fact, it was Aykroyd who tagged him 'Monster Mike Welch', primarily because he was so good and so powerful at such a young age.

Eventually Mike started gigging on his own, forming the Monster Mike Welch Band. Their debut release, 'These Blues Are Mine', was released in 1996, when he was a mere 16 years old. The band went on to record a handful of acclaimed blues albums, as Mike, simultaneously, did guest

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appearances on the records of other blues greats. Along this amazing journey, the young guitarist played with the likes of Johnny Clyde Copeland, James Cotton, Johnny Winter, Hubert Sumlin, and Junior Wells, to name just a few. He was also a member of Sugar Ray and the Bluetones for a while, the band fronted by blues vocalist and harpist, Sugar Ray Norcia.

Monster Mike Welch has been an accomplished musician for years now, and his credits are significant and comprehensive. What's incredible is that he's still young and almost certainly hasn't reached his musical peak. In other words, there's still a lot of guitar playing to be done. ---
Brian D. Holland, bostonblues.com

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