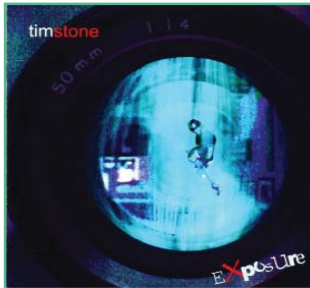


CD Review



TIM STONE EXPOSURE

Label: www.timstonemusic.com
Cat No: TSM 003

Guitarist / Songwriter Tim Stone's latest CD "Xposure" opens with "Give it away". I am pleasantly reminded of one of my all time favourite artistes J.J.Cale. Both have that easy style of vocal and guitar delivery.

This sets a "swampy" groove and is a good opener. "Sin" says "I've been n..n..n.. knockin' where I can't get in" and is slightly more up tempo but still in the same groove. Tim's low key, breathy vocal style is aptly complimented by his subtle use of his guitar riffs on "Water" and is a really good track. "Early September" leads into "Hackney Rain", this track deviates from the others in style with a localised view of Hackney on a rainy day. "Age of Information" has a nice guitar intro and we're back to Tim's breathy vocals "You believe in the after-life...live forever in paradise" not quite Hackney Tim! I'm half way through the CD now and so far it's proving to be a very good listen with some well thought out songs and arrangements. Tim, it should be pointed out, has a wealth of experience in his musical CV having played with Rick Wakeman, Chaka Khan, Alan Price, Boyzone, Isaac Guillory and many others. On Tim's website he says he was inspired by Isaac's guitar picking. I also worked in the same clubs in the 60's as Isaac and can agree that he was an extremely good artist who in my opinion was not given the recognition he deserved.

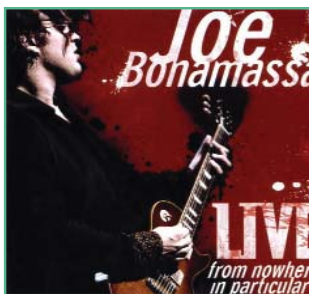
Movin on with "Tears", this has a tight percussive intro with a back-beat drum pattern and expounds the virtues or not, of seeking the views of a Fortune Teller. Nice use of guitars in this one, very well arranged.

"Serena" is more of a folksy style song with slight strains of a Bert Jansch approach. Good clear, clean guitar and vocal on this one. "Son of a Beach" is the CD's only instrumental and it sets a relaxed mood which would suit a lazy day in a hammock with a cool Red Stripe.

"Make your Day" and we're back to swampy groove which then leads in the penultimate track "In my Skin" - this is almost a psyche track in lyric and delivery and finally, "21st Century Blues" winds up the album.

The CD was produced by Tim and the musicians are: Miles Bould (Drums & Percussion), Scott Firth and Yolanda Charles (Bass), Sirish Kumar (Tabla), Martin Ditcham (percussion), Simone Plummer (Backing vocals) and Tim Stone (guitar, vocals and programming). It is an easy laid back listen with excellent clarity in the production. Everything compliments everything else and herald's another notch in Tim's already substantial musical career. 10 out of 10.

Paul Brett



JOE BONAMASSA LIVE - from nowhere in particular

Label: Provogue
Catalogue: PR072482

Great double CD release by an equally great guitarist. Lots of raw earthy Blues and some amazing acoustic pieces on Joe's Live offering. You can see why he's building such a following around the Globe. No frills, just plain, driving beats and an awesome delivery. His looks are close to the Meatloaf Mode, as are his powerful vocals. But there the comparison ends, as Joe is firmly rooted in the Blues and is yet another modern artiste who propagates the music and legend of the great Bluesmen who have gone before. Blues, like Jazz, had never been at the top of the wish list for the commercial executives and companies who dictate the musical trends of the day to the general market, by force feeding them (with the collusion of the populist media), music and artistes which they want to promote. However, Blues was the foundation of it all and despite years of playing down it's viability to the commercial sector, it is still alive and kicking, kept so by the ever growing interest from those of us, both young and old, who recognise the value and

beauty of such a genre.

15 tracks in total on 2 CD's are what you get and what you get is definitely worth the money. There's great electric playing and some soulful acoustic playing too. I suggest you have a look at a particular clip of Joe's that features on this CD which is up on YouTube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5B3FYUBPyo> This is a vocal / guitar rendition of "Woke up Dreaming", that Joe performed whilst doing a drop in - signing session at a record store in Dallas Texas in 2006. No pretty boy and babe stuff here and you can tell by the applause of those in attendance that this was a genuine and spontaneous reaction.

It's a breath of fresh air to review an artiste who just sings and plays it as it comes. He has a great band around him and you can tell by the various live recordings that he thoroughly enjoys these situations, working off and to an audience. Long may artists like Joe Bonamassa continue to emerge and evolve and thus keep the Blues knocking on the door of those who would archive it. It was as late as the 1950's that record companies were selling Blues as "Race Music". An attempt to marginalise a style that they thought would sell to the African American Communities alone. Like Pandora's box, once opened, it's impossible to get the lid back on, thank God!

Paul Brett



MARCIA PENDLEBURY WITH ART THEMEN AT 60 SOMETHING

Label: JL Music Services
contact marciapendleburyjazz.com

If you like Jazz and want a CD to listen to and relax with a nice glass of wine, then this CD is a must for you. It has a lovely texture and atmosphere with a genuine "live feel" that sounds like Marcia and her band are set up in the corner of the room, playing just for you. Marcia's great voice is pure chocolate to the ears, deep and rich with a timeless feel and smooth delivery, which is bril-

liantly mirrored by Art Theman's saxophone playing. Classics such as 'Fever' 'Body and Soul' and 'Easy Living', aptly highlight the abilities of great musicians at ease with themselves and the music to which they aspire.

The CD is a joy to listen to and features expertise from John Lambrick and Paul Hartley on guitars, Paul Roberts (bass), Chris Pendlebury (Drums) and saxophone by Art Theman. All are very accomplished and experienced musicians in their own right.

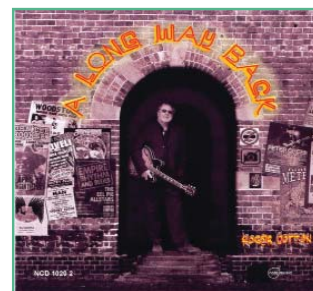
This is the first CD Marcia has released since the sudden death of her lifelong soulmate and husband, pianist Keith Pendlebury, a well known keyboard player who like Marcia, dedicated his life to playing Jazz. They played many clubs, festivals, tours, tv's etc. during their long careers and this is Marcia's first step at a solo offering in which she replaced Keith's piano with two guitars. Through this CD and her live performances at Festivals such as Brecon and Abersoch, Marcia is keeping her's and Keith's life long love for Jazz and each other alive, whilst still thrilling audiences with with her immeasurable talent.

'You came a long way from St. Louis', 'I've got you under my skin', 'I'll be seeing you', are just a few of my favourites on this album.

Marcia has also written a stage musical about her great admiration of all time great, Bessie Smith.

It won rave reviews at The Edinburgh Festival and she hopes to tour it on a wider basis in the future. The lady sure knows what she's doing and how to do it and her CD is well worth a listen.

Michele Breeze



ROGER COTTON A LONG WAY BACK

Label: Note-Records
Cat: NCD 1020 2

It's not that often when reviewing CD's that I come across an absolutely compatible selection of songs that completely satisfies my musical taste. But here's one that certainly does. It's by Roger