

Blues Bytes



The Planetary Blues Band is aptly named, as these Indiana cats take traditional blues to another dimension, creating an interesting sound heard on their self-released debut CD, *Once Upon A Time In The South Loop*. Three brothers --- Martin, Michael and Bobby Schaefer-Murray --- make up most of the band, with longtime friend Nick Evans on drums. This is blues/rock played with a primal beat, and what the members of the band sometimes lack in musical chops they more than make up with relentless energy.

All but three of the ten cuts are band originals, most written by Martin Schaefer-Murray, along with several versions of traditional blues, such as the opening cut, "See That My Grave Is Kept Clean." As expected, the covers stray pretty far from the original renditions.

My favorite cut is the up-tempo version of the Rev. Robert Wilkins blues/gospel standard, "That's No Way To Get Along." The band captures the "down by the riverside" feeling of the original, with some nice guitar playing along the way.

Another good number is the slow blues "When I Say I Love You," featuring a hot guitar intro. This original number definitely shows that The Planetary Blues Band sound is firmly rooted in the blues.

Closing the disc is a nice up-tempo instrumental, "The Shillelagh," that allows the band a little more room to stretch out and showcase the talents on their individual instruments.

Check out their website at www.planetaryblues.com for more info on these dudes from Valparaiso, including a link to purchase *Once Upon A Time In The South Loop* from CD Baby.

--- Bill Mitchell

What's New

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<http://www.bluenight.com/BluesBytes/wn1013.html>