

# Blues Underground Network



## **The Planetary Blues Band - "Once Upon A Time In The South Loop"** (USA)

After giving "Once Upon A Time In The South Loop", the latest release by The Planetary Blues Band, just a few listens, I could not come to any conclusion, other than this album, is pretty damn good. That is a conclusion, for which I am sure that many who have already listened to or will be listening to, "Once Upon A Time In The South Loop", have already or will soon be, coming to.

The Planetary Blues Band, is a 4 member band consisting of 3 brothers, Martin Schaefer-Murray, Guitar/Vocals, Michael Schaefer-Murray, Guitar/Vocals, and Bobby Schaefer-Murray, Bassist, as well as, Nick Evans, Drums/Percussion. The band is based in Valparaiso, Indiana, which is close to Chicago. They call themselves a Rock band, but it is very clear, when listening to "Once Upon A Time In The South Loop", that the overriding influence of their music is the blues, particularly Chicago Blues, for which they honed that style after spending "countless hours learning entire albums by Chicago Blues greats like Buddy Guy and Son Seals ". Their dedication to their music has certainly paid off, as they not only regularly performed at Buddy Guy's Legend, but have also performed with Buddy Guy.

"Once Upon A Time In The South Loop" consists of 10 immensely entertaining Tracks, 7 of which are originals. For the covers, The Planetary Blues Band, chose a really nice trio of songs which included, "Please See That My Grave Is Kept Clean" (Blind

Lemon Jefferson), "That's No Way To Get Along" (Rev. Robert Wilkins), and "Crazy Cryin' Blues" (Memphis Minnie).

"Once Upon A Time In The South Loop" opens with Blind Lemon Jefferson's "Please See That My Grave Is Kept Clean" and immediately got me thinking of Marshall Lawrence, Canada's Premier Blues artist, whom's forte is Neo-Delta Acoustic Blues. Track 4, "That's No Way To Get Along" by Rev. Robert Wilkins also got me thinking along the Marshall Lawrence lines, reach believe me, is a total compliment to The Planetary Blues Band, for them and Lawrence have a great unique sound.

Track 3, "This Precious Existence", was one of my favorites on "Once Upon A Time In The South Loop". This one is a great slow melodic song, which not only shows off the softer side of their Vocal prowess, but also some mighty fine great Guitar work, via Martin and Michael.

In addition to the opener, "See That My Grave Is Kept Clean", a few more of my favorites were "When I Say I Love You" and "Crazy Cryin' Blues" (Memphis Minnie).

"Crazy Cryin' Blues" is a great Blues Rocker that comes across with a British Blues feel. My choice, for sure, for the most uptempo Guitar and Vocals laden Track on "Once Upon A Time In The South Loop". A real pleaser.

"When I Say I Love You" also comes across with great Vocals and great Guitar work, but more along the style of B.B. King fretwork. As far as Guitar work is concerned, this beauty is certainly the most searing.

All in all, I found "Once Upon A Time In The South Loop" to be a very satisfying listen with just that right amount of originality which totally peaked my interest.

The Planetary Blues Band is, by all means, an extremely talented band that offer up a really nice fresh take on the Blues, which is sure to please a wide range of Blues Lovers. They are also a relatively young band and one that I am sure, we will all be hearing quite a bit about, especially if they can keep their commitment to their style of Blues, in the foreground.

5\*\*\*\*\* for "Once Upon A Time In The South Loop", an album that had no problem being added to my pile of often played CD's.

Review by John Vermilyea (Blues Underground Network)  
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