

Bman's Blues Report

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Once Upon A Time In The South Loop - Planetary Blues Band - New Release Review



I just received the new release, **Once Upon A Time In The South Loop**, by **Planetary Blues Band** and it's pretty cool. Opening with an original arrangement of Blind Lemon Jefferson's **See That My Grave Is Kept Clean**. Having characteristics similar to early British blues bands, this has a fresh but familiar sound. Blues rocker **The Thorns Will Show You** has a real sixties sound and could easily become a radio player. I like the guitar hook and the relentless manner in which the guitar soloing is handled. **This Precious Existence** has an odd time signature for a rock or blues track, 6/8 I think giving it more of a European sound. A haunting melody and twin guitar leads make this track particularly interesting. Rev. Robert Wilkins track **That's No Way To Get Along**, is given a slightly more rocky treatment to the Wilkins original but the feel of the original composition is preserved. This track has the feel of the Dead on a blues track and will likely have broad appeal. **Sacred and Profane Blues** takes a stronger blues rock stance. This is one of the best tracks on the recording with Morganfield structure and strong rhythm bass and drum leadership and quick guitar riffs. **Blues Resurrection** is a slick slow blues with hot guitar riffs and a slow driving bass and drum beat. This is obviously more modern but frenzied guitar work reminiscent of early Buddy Guy is present and cool. **Crazy Cryin' Blues** is an upbeat blues rocker that really gets your feet moving. Vocals and instrumental arrangement to me still give it a strong English sound but it is a strong American track with intense guitar soloing.

When I Say I Love You is a real stinger! Dig down deep, grab your chair and enjoy the fretboard workout. I love the expressive guitar riffs on this track and think this is likely the hottest track on the release. **The Shillelagh** is a quick shuffle tune with solid guitar work. A really cool way to conclude an interesting release.



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