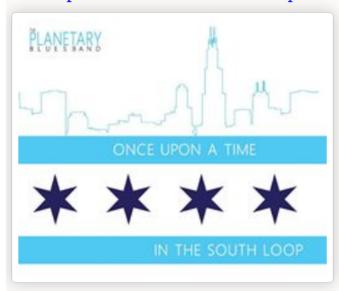
Bman's Blues Report

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

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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