

Mp3 Michael Cleary Band - Tales From The Cup (the Coffeehouse Archives)



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funky jazzy rock with a bluesy latin twist, buttered with a little worldbeat zydeco soul. 13 MP3 Songs

ROCK: Funk Rock, ROCK: Jam-band Details: The Michael Cleary band is a Hartford institution. They are celebrating their 13th year of making original blues/rock music with a twist and have been called Hartford's answer to the Allman Brothers. The MCB is a perennial favorite in the Hartford Advocate's reader's poll and headlined at this year's Grand Band Slam. They have played with Tower of Power, Little Feat, Average White Band, Joan Osbourne, Peter Wolf, NRBQ and countless other regional and national acts. Their latest release, "Tales from the Cup," is a "best of" compilation from their days on the Coffeehouse record label and was released in August 2004. The following is a review from The Hartford Advocate, 3/25/04: Rites of Spring: The Michael Cleary Band after 13 years is Hartfords answer to the Allman Brothers. The first weekend of spring brought with it some very un-spring-like weather such as snow and ice, but it also brought a couple of really good shows to warm the heart of any lover of local, original music. On Saturday, at the Arch Street Tavern I caught a heartfelt and very well received set by the long-running Michael Cleary Band. The Michael Cleary Band is a Hartford institution. For 13 years the band has been churning out their highly addictive blend of blues-based rock to appreciative audiences in the area. They do an excellent job of merging different styles of music into the standard blues rock template. So, while the songs have a bluesy rock base, there are also traces of funk, jazz, country, soul and Latin in the mix, making the band sound at times like Hartford's own version of the Allman Brothers. Each member of the band is talented in his own right, but Cleary definitely deserves some notice for his ace guitar playing. A master of his instrument, he effortlessly shoots out bluesy, emotive solos especially on the occasions when the band gets down and jams. But he's also a solid rhythm player, able to lay

down a nice solid groove, when duty calls. Cleary calls his band a "labor of love" and one can hear this love in the music they play. Even more so, you can feel the love the fans show for this veteran band as they danced the night away to the music.

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