

Mp3 The Mystix - Blue Morning



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The Mystix are an all-star band representing the very best journeymen of the Boston/New York music scenes, with roots in Rock and Roll, Jazz, R&B, Blues and Country. 10 MP3 Songs COUNTRY: Americana, BLUES: Soul-Blues Details: When pros who've in their own ways done it all put a band together, When their different colors pool on small hot stages night on night until four become one, Then regulars turn from bars to listen open-eyed, While strangers fill tables and put hands together, And all go home much later feeling buzzed from discovering what they always knew Whether or not you've heard The Mystix, this CD you're holding is a storehouse of soulful surprise and staying power. The Mystix Blue Morning: The goods are inside. Enter and enjoy. There is a language spoken by certain African-Americans in the south called "Gullah", it is a Creole-English based tongue and its word for wicked is "juke". Juke Joints are roadside establishments where food, liquor and dancing are offered to a rough and tumble soundtrack playing throughout the night. Now one has to search high and low to try and find an authentic juke joint in New England, right? So where the Hell did The Mystix come from? Maybe Hurricane Katrina relocated Robert Johnson's legendary crossroads in downtown Boston or perhaps this is another side effect of global warming (and, like less snow shoveling, a good one at that!) but Jo Lily and Company have just made things seem a little more Southern round these parts. There's Spanish moss hanging on the maple trees thanks to The Mystix and their wonderful new recording BLUE MORNING (Mystix Eyes Records) and songs they're laying on us are all hot, humid and swampy. This isn't some Bar/Jam Band affair either. These guys are seasoned musicians at the top of their game. They bring the best kind of experience to their craft and that being the knowledge that the material has to be there in order to create something wonderful. Their equation is plain and simple: GREAT SONGS = GREAT PERFORMANCES. It is song oriented roots-rock with the musicians paying service to the tunes

instead of the other way around. You won't find one endless guitar solo after another but the ones that are there are delivered with power and panache by Jo Lily and New England phenomenon Bobby Keyes who also co-produced the CD. Yolanda kicks it all off with a stunning plea from Lily to the quintessential black magic woman who hes painfully enslaved to, she has the lighting and the thunder that I just cant do without. Its a great boogie groove that Mystixs incredible rhythm section of bassist Marty Ballou and drummer Marty Richards supply, while the guitars of Keyes and Lilys duel over top of it all. This is rump shakin stuff and very juke indeed. Another Kind of Love is quick to indicate why The Mystix (and the folks living on the North Shore of Massachusetts) are lucky to have Bobby Keyes playing with them, he is simply an amazing guitarist that stays true to the melody of the song in which he is playing. He can switch from Surf-style-spaghetti-western to Django Reinhardt style jazz to kiss-ass rock riffs in the blink of an eye and never break a sweat. These kinds of players dont come around that often (the late, great Danny Gatton comes to mind) and it is a privilege to watch him play. He is an in-demand session player and songwriter, who has worked with some of the best musicians this land has to offer, both past and current. A Change in Jane is a standout ballad that wouldnt be out of place on the last couple Bob Dylan albums, yes, its that good. Jo Lilys hard-bitten voice bears a striking resemblance to latter day Dylans and the quality of the writing by he and Keyes is on par with the Bard of Hibbing, Minnesota. This haunting song, thats just shy of three minutes, leaves you wanting more and reaching for the repeat button. Invoking strong visual imagery there is a film out there just waiting for this song. The Deep South shows it roots once more with New Orleans. The reeling and rocking rhythms evoke a Bourbon Street party in full force. The Mystix drive back the flood waters on this one and remind us of the Musical Heritage we came horrifyingly close to losing. You cant help but having some serious restless leg syndrome as the boys go in search of the Fat Man and call the displaced residents to beat feet back home. The title track, Blue Morning, is a gentle, acoustic guitar driven song of longing and leaving. What do you do after you find your heart is crashed and burned in pieces on the ground and youre left with nothing but questions? What can you do, stay and take it, or wait until the dawn and head for the door? The answer is never an easy one, and Lily knows it, but this is the kind of song the gives you the courage to face a new day. Blue Morning is a classic sonnet of male heartbreak, the kind of song that Neil Diamond or Jimmy Webb used to write so well. Shifting gears again, the album surprises you with, Which Side of Heartache, and its strong classic Country Music leanings. Over top of some Floyd Cramer-esque piano and beautiful slide

guitar the band reminds us of the by-gone era in Nashville when quality songwriting actually meant something. Its that kind of waltz-time ballad your father used to nurse his beer to at his local VFW. If only Country Radio would still play songs like these All these genre detours that The Mystix take are held together by a carefully crafted identity that Jo Lily and Bobby Keyes have provided with an immaculate production. The bands sound is always there coloring every tune with a coherence that comes from the familiarity of playing together for many years. This is a bunch of musicians that obviously love the music their performing and each one of them gets a chance to shine on Blue Morning. The CDs two non-originals also reflect the stylistic diversity of the groups approach. Im a Love You by Jimmy Reed is the albums most straight ahead old school blues number with Jo Lily vocal conjuring up the ghost of Howlin Wolf over top of some hot licks from Bobby Keyes. The other cover is Rattled by The Traveling Wilburys. Now the Wilburys were a chance for some old friends (Bob Dylan, George Harrison, Tom Petty, Jeff Lynne and Roy Orbison) to spend some studio time together and record a couple albums worth of lose-knit tunes. A similar situation was employed by The Mystix but there is nothing lose-knit about this effort and their version of Rattled is (blasphemy!) hands down superior. Without You has to be the albums most playful song, with its good-time, sing-a-long tag. Lilys lyrics are particularly tongue-in-cheek with lines like, Im confessin, Im stressin, I just cant seem to learn my lesson. Creating smiles aplenty, this could make the summer last all the way to winter. The end-cut, Hi-Line is a perfect closer. Its a three-in-the-morning last call at our Juke Joint for, the whiskey, the women and the wine, as the band bids adieu and heads out the door for the mystical road that will take them to God-knows-where. If you like the stuff of Leon Redbone or early Tom Waits this ones for you. So set em up Jo and lets hope The Mystix will be back our way again sometime soon. Blue Morning is Juke (Wicked) good. Critical Praise For The Mystix First CD, Satisfy You serving up a home rous of tunes that draw on recipes of the Fatman, the good doctor, the first family of funk a steaming gumbo of funky New Orleans R&B. - Chicago Sun Times a stunningly moving, brilliantly executed CD by six of the best journeymen musicians in the industry - Southbound Beat Magazine

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