



BLUES NEWS

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Michael Mulvaney *Road*

CD Review by Mark Winston

Road is an eclectic collection from veteran performer Michael Mulvaney. An accomplished rhythm guitarist and harp player, Mulvaney has assembled a talented band. Road features John Dfearth from Bruce Hornsby, Richard Stickley from the Lynne Anderson Band, and is co-produced by Emmy-nominated composer Paul Brier.

Diversity is probably the best word to describe the songs contained on the CD. The compositions range from traditional 12-bar Chicago blues, to horn-based R&B somewhat reminiscent of Blood, Sweat, and Tears. In fact, I am at a loss in trying to think of a really suitable artist with whom I can compare this original concoction. For example, the use of jawharp, harmonica, and horns on "Hot Wash With A Cold Rinse" was unique as far as my experience goes. "I Must Have Been A Fool (To Believe In Love)" has a country blues/rock feel, and "Last Call For Alcohol" makes use of a clarinet which is reminiscent of Al Hirt and a New Orleans style. I particularly liked the use of congas in "The Dance Of Love." Not only is the CD diverse in terms of the style of songs and the use of instruments--the tunes also range from a full-blown big band sound to more traditional solo performances, which feature a very strong harmonica. One point I can make emphatically is this is not a heavy electric guitar blues composition. It tends more toward an easy listening potpourri of complexly arranged musical numbers, many of which display a strong sense of humor.

According to Mulvaney the CD took nine years to complete due to a million factors. It is obvious that a great deal of effort went into these recordings. If you are a big fan of diverse blues styles which feature horns and harmonica then the CD is available by contacting Michael at (804) 831-2968 or over the internet at www.michaelmulvaney.com. ■