



Genre: Blues
Label: RipBang Records

Tracks

1. The Chicken and the Hawk
2. Nineteen Years Old
3. I'll Go Crazy
4. You Don't Love Me
5. Rainin' in My Heart
6. Can't Be Satisfied
7. Thirty Days
8. Mighty Long Time
9. High Temperature
10. Rollin' and Tumblin'

The Nighthawks

Last Train to Bluesville

Okay, the title *Last Train to Bluesville* may be a bit corny as far as titles go, but The Nighthawks certainly seem like a group of guys that I'd want to jam with in the yard on a hot summer day.

The Nighthawks are a D.C. based blues band currently comprised of Mark Wenner (harmonica/vocals), Pete Ragusa (drums/vocals), Paul Bell (guitar/vocals), and Johnny Castle (bass/vocals). The band has existed in some form since 1972, so these boys have been at it for quite a while. Don't be fooled though, there is still a nice youthfulness in the performance of these songs.

Last Train to Bluesville is a collection of 10 acoustic versions of blues classics. You get Nighthawks versions of Muddy Waters' "Nineteen Years Old", James Brown's "I'll Go Crazy", "Thirty Days" by Chuck Berry, amongst others. It is a nice a diverse sampling of tunes.

I have to say, I have listened to this a few times since I got it. The first time I wasn't too into it, but I really enjoyed it a lot more the last couple times. With the uncharacteristically warm weather we've had in the Northeast these last few days, this album just fit that hot sticky weather. In fact I think I will need to get a nice summery brew to chase this review with.

What really puts it together for me is Mark Wenner's harmonica, it's fantastic. Looking over the list of tracks, I generally prefer the one's with his vocals on them as well. I guess he deserves this as the lone original Nighthawk. Still, some of the songs are better than others, and a few of the one's I enjoyed most are listed below. Personally I'd prefer Wenner on lead vocals the whole time, but we'd have less of his harmonica if he did this I suppose. Either way, I think everyone will get more enjoyment out of this album the warmer it gets.

HOT TRACKS: Nineteen Years Old, Can't Be Satisfied, Mighty Long Time

★★★★