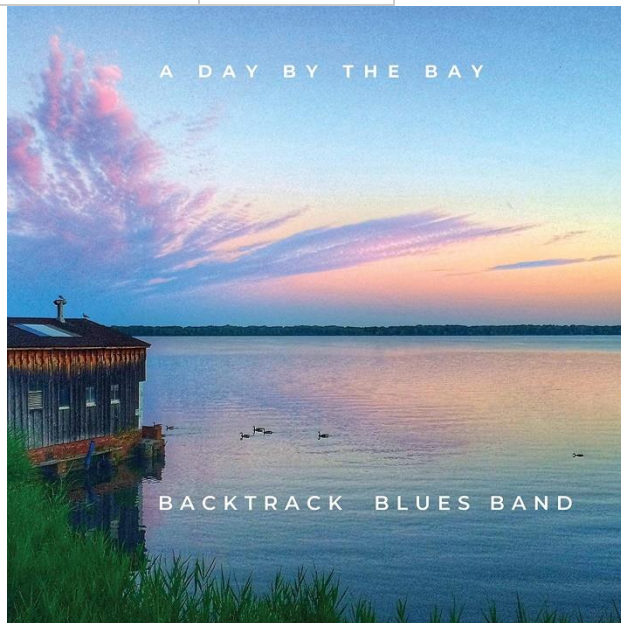


## PARIS MOVE CD REVIEW TRANSLATION

### BACKTRACK BLUES BAND – A DAY BY THE BAY

Gulf Coast Records

	<b>BLUES</b>
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Founded in 1980, the Backtrack Blues Band has since established itself as one of the most consistent pillars of the state of Florida. Named after the instrumental title of Little Walter by its founding harmonica player, Sonny Charles, the formation has no less than seven albums to the counter (as well as two DVDs), and has performed throughout its career with big names such as B.B. King, Koko Taylor, Stevie Ray Vaughan, John Lee Hooker, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, George Thorogood, The Nighthawks, Buddy Guy, Robert Cray, Gregg Allman, Johnny Winter, Lonnie Brooks, Junior Wells, Robert Cray, Little Milton, Tommy Castro and Lonnie Mack. From a surprisingly stable line-up for two decades, the band consists, in addition to Sonny Charles and left-handed guitarist Little Johnny Walter (both present from the beginning), Canadian guitar slinger and singer Kid Royal, as well as bassist Jeff "Sticks" Davis and drummer Joe Bencomo. For this live album (and their first since signing to Mike Zito's house label), they are reinforced by the Hammond B3 of the aptly named Wayne Sharp, as well as the backing vocals of Latonya Oliver and Dana Merriweather. The festivities open with the jubilant Texas-shuffle "Best Friend's Grave", where we immediately perceive that the so-called Kid Royal does not usurp his nickname. Alternating lead vocals and harmo parts, the leader Sonny Charles hands the pole to the audience by offering the chauvinist "Make My Home In Florida". Chicago slow blues par excellence (in the immarcescible vein of Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf), this track is the longest of the cake, offering each soloist the opportunity to shine under the blazing sun of the Tampa Bay Festival, April 10, 2022. The Kid demonstrates that he did not only have his sources in Austin (where he stayed), but also with Luther Johnson, Jimmy Rogers, Jimmy Dawkins and Buddy Guy of the South Side of the Windy City. And what could have turned out to be a pensum turns out to be a tour de force, in the spirit of what the Butterfield Blues Band once proposed, a good half century ago. Demarcated from Rice Miller's "Help Me", "Help Me Just This Time" (where Sonny's harmo and the Kid's six strings obviously take the lion's share), then confirms it. The rhythm section is particularly relevant, in a register where it is easy to distinguish apprentices from masters. Pastiche for his part of Louis Jordan's "Caldonia", the raptured "Dixie Grill" gives Sonny the opportunity to benefit from the playful choruses of the two ladies on board, before flying with his instrument for a good rasade of bar-b-q as Asleep At The Wheel loved it. The exuberant Kid Royal is obviously not to be outdone, and we have no trouble imagining the denim mini-shorts shaking to the rhythm of Lindy Hop. The only cover of the lot, Jimmy Reed's "Natural Born Lover" offers what its creator did all his life: a mid-tempo swamp shuffle lascivious and haunting, able to awaken the lowest instincts (and therefore the most fertile). Wayne Sharp makes a scathing solo, before ceding the conclusion to the Kid. In exactly the same vein, the caustic "Rich Man Blues" takes on the appearance of an anti-capitalist pamphlet in the land of hedge funds: mischievous to the point of teasing, the Backtrack!.. Signed and sung by Royal, the swinging "She Might Get Mad" gives Bencomo the opportunity to confirm that the shuffle jump version is no problem for him, while Sonny Charles once again asserts its leadership, and that the choristers sway in rhythm. From the pen of the same author, "Times Is Hard" is in line with the late T-Bone Walker and his "Stormy Monday Blues". Wayne Sharp is illustrated with taste, before "You'll Come Back Someday" by Sonny Charles closes the ban on an up-tempo gaillard, in the vein of "Little By Little" by Junior Wells and Mel London. A record-drenched good time blues, celebrating the insolent vitality of veterans whose next generation would do well to be inspired!

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[Paris-Move](#), [Blues Magazine](#), Illico & BluesBoarder

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