

BLUES MATTERS CD REVIEW - Issue #93

BACKTRACK BLUES BAND

WAY BACK HOME

Harpo Records

This Chicago style blues band who have been together for over thirty-five years playing out of their Florida base. This album is their fifth album and what a cracking release it is, mixing self written tracks with some covers originally released by some of Chicago's finest, it cannot be a coincidence that two of the band members' names are Little Johnny Walter and Sonny Charles! The band are formed of five significant musicians who have played the blues for many years, these include Kid Royal on guitar and the aforementioned Sonny Charles who switches between lead vocals and harmonica. Included on the album across all tracks is pianist Victor Wainwright, a blues star in his own right, who for me is the final piece of the jigsaw which makes this a perfect blues band line up. The self written material is very good, the pick for me is the infectious Heavy Built Women whose chorus I sang along to which caused a 'looks could kill' stare from my wife when she heard me, very clever lyrics and some excellent lead harmonica playing from Sonny, a surprising cover is Phil Lynott's Baby Please Don't Go which gets the rocking blues treatment, all in all a great mix of Chicago blues by a very polished band who have hit the right note with this release.