

PHIL GATES
Addicted to the Blues
Setag Music 2010

With a title like *Addicted to the Blues* I couldn't help but want to check this CD out. And, I was not disappointed with what I heard. While listening to the tracks, I read the CD jacket and was amazed. Gates wrote all 12 songs, and contributed to

keyboards, bass and programming drums during the CD mixing. Gates shows a refreshing, different style of blues with this well rounded CD. He exhibits his guitar ability by playing a variety of guitar styles: from funk and country to traditional blues; and his slide guitar ability in the track "Sexy Little Cool."

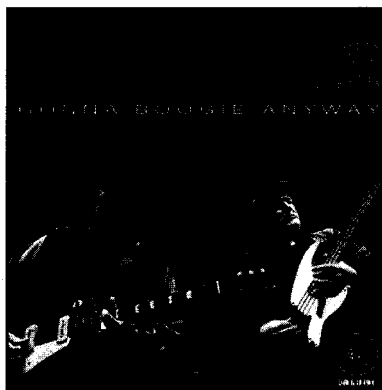
The lyrics, all by Gates, are as good as it gets. As a good bluesman should, Gates sings about life and does it very well. He pays tribute to former bluesmen in "The Wisdom." He sings about love and romance in "Get Around to Me."

At the age of 12, Gates started play violin, clarinet, drums and guitar. His style was influenced by great blues artists Buddy Guy, Albert King, Jimi Hendrix and Carlos Santana.

No newcomer, Gates has released six CDs before *Addicted to the Blues: Time* (2000), *Secret Passage* (2002), *This Side of Me* (2005), *My Normal Life* (2006), *Should I?* (2008) and *FAQ: Recording the Guitar* (2005).

There is something for everyone in *Addicted to the Blues*. You will not be disappointed in this refreshing and easy to listen to CD.

- Alice Rogers-Simmons



CHRIS JAMES & PATRICK RYNN
Gonna Boogie Anyway
Ludwig Records 2010

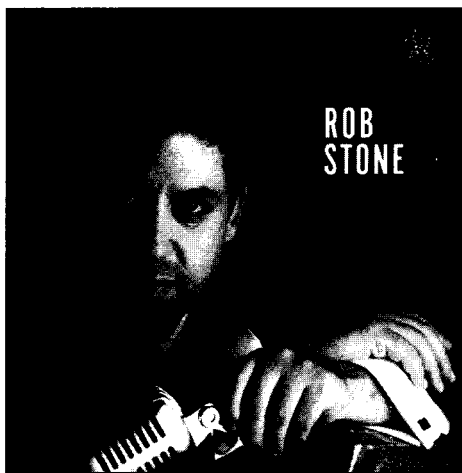
I had the opportunity to pick out a CD to review and what attracted me to this one was the title: *Gonna Boogie Anyway*. Liking boogie woogie blues I thought I would see what these guys had to offer. Much to my surprise I was delighted from

start to finish. Since the CD is dedicated to the memories of Bo Diddley and Koko Taylor, I knew I was in for some seriously good music.

The pair showed their expertise in many ways, with many songs. Patrick showed his talent by playing stand up bass on four different songs and his song writing ability on eight of the 12 songs on the CD. The two paid tribute to old school bluesmen like Jimmy Reed on track 7, "Can't Stand To See You Go", Robert Lockwood, on track 1, "Money Don't Like Me", and Ellis McDaniel (aka Bo Diddley) on tracks 2 & 12. The CD is a combination of old and new and is well worth taking the time to purchase. If you do, you will enjoy it enjoy for years to come.

- Larry K. Simmons

News from the Blues Foundation



ROB STONE
Back Around Here
Earwig Music 2010

Rob Stones new CD *Back Around Here* is great. Rob has surrounded himself with very good musicians, especially the saxophone player.

Rob has a mellow easy to listen to voice that reminds me of an early John Mayall. He plays harmonica and sings, excelling at both. He can get deep electric tones

but he also gets that 50's sound out of his harmonica, just like Sonny Boy. Several of the songs will have you tapping your feet and then humming or singing the song long after the CD has finished. I don't know which song I like the best but one of my favorites is *Sloppy Drunk Blues* just because of its retro feel.

I recommend this CD to anyone who likes harmonica and saxophone and again Rob's voice is very easy to listen to along with a band that sounds great. Featured on this CD are Chris James, Patrick Rynn, Sam Lay, Aaron Moore, Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, David Maxwell and Willie Hayes. Put this CD on the "got to order" list. It is great traveling music. Check Rob out at his web site: www.robstone.com.

- Terry L. Harrison

The 27th annual International Blues Challenge - Feb. 1-5, 2011 in Memphis - will include Blues musicians from around the world competing for cash, prizes, and industry recognition. In addition, IBC will again include a youth showcase for those under the age of 21.

In 2011, IBC will move from a three day format to a four day format. The new format will include two days of quarter finals (Feb 2-3), one day of semi-finals (Feb 4) and concluding with finals in the beautiful Orpheum Theater (Feb 5).

Check www.blues.org for more information; and start planning a trip to Memphis for the IBC. It is a great time; there's nothing like being on Beale Street during IBC!

