



PETER NOVELLI

Louisiana Roots & Blues

Chalet Music - CH-1201

At first glance, Louisiana Roots & Blues seems like a broad title for the follow-up to New Orleans-based guitarist Peter Novelli's self-titled debut. Yet upon listening to it, the phrase makes perfect sense; it succinctly describes Novelli's sound—a rich blend of south Louisiana blues-rock, touches of zydeco, and plenty of Crescent City grooves and sensibility.

Organist Joe Krown and vocalists Elaine and Lisa Foster make return appearances on this album, joined by bassist Chris Chew and drummer Darryl White. Guest artists also share the spotlight: Chris Thomas King appears on two tracks, the socially conscious *Dyin' By Numbers* and the runaway tale of *Elysian Breakdown*. Shamarr Allen's trumpet lends atmosphere to *Treme 3 A.M.*, as well as to an instrumental-only version of the same track that fills out the album. Chubby Carrier contributes his own *Zydeco Lady* to the proceedings, bringing her to life with his accordion and frottoir, while *(This Is) Our Last Goodbye* is given an extra shot of dawn's-early-light resignation by Gordon Minette's piano playing.

But Novelli is, of course, the star of the show: his thick, greasy guitar tone brings a sense of menace to *Shadow Man*, a touch of roadhouse grit to *Eyes Talk*, a grungy snarl to his cover of John Hiatt's *Lovin' a Hurricane*. Likewise, his reedy, Randy Newman-esque voice shines on *Eyes* and *Goodbye*. Fans of Tab Benoit and Sonny Landreth, as well as those interested in the current New Orleans music scene, would do well to check out Peter Novelli's *Louisiana Roots & Blues*.

—*Melanie Young* **Living Blues Magazine**, August-September 2012