

ROOTSTIME (The Netherlands)

CD REVIEW

Peter Novelli, *PETER NOVELLI*

Peter Novelli dedicates his debut to the blues pioneers in and around Baton Rouge and therefore it is already a direct statement that his heart goes out to the Louisiana blues and to all those legendary blues musicians Louisiana and New Orleans have put on the musical map, a large musical metropolis made from the likes of Slim Harpo, Gatemouth Brown, The Meters, Dr. John and Kenny Neal. The list is long and is still being completed. Novelli devotes a separate tribute Slim Harpo, born 1924 in Baton Rouge, with a rendition of "Baby Scratch My Back" and some tracks in which the musicians reminisce.

Guitarist Peter Novelli has devoted thirty years to the blues prior to bringing these dozen songs that range from Louisiana to Texas with some spicy zydeco added. This CD also shows influences from Little Feat, Delbert McClinton and Tab Benoit that Novelli has absorbed in his musical travels.

As usual in New Orleans, many musicians jump in, including Nola figurehead Dr. John, keyboardist Joe Krown, organist Augie Meyers, slide guitarist Paul Barrere, Rafal Neal on harmonica and bassist David Hyde, who produced this album. This range of musicians makes this album very varied with "Going To Louisiana" of particular note. The few instrumental tracks, like the ethereal "Grand Isle Dawn - April 21, 2010" (with slide guitar and synthesizer), "Open The Gate" with sax and "Bulverde, Texas" with baritone guitar and zydeco influences. The soulfully sung 'Since The Hurricane' refers once again to the havoc and the wounds that the hurricane left with the survivors .

PETER NOVELLI

LOUISIANA ROOTS & BLUES

In this second album, recorded in New Orleans and Lafayette, the singer / guitarist continues his explorations in southern Louisiana with jaunts to Texas. The guitarist learned to play violin as a child, guitar as a teenager then toured with many a band, including Sammy Naquin & The Zydeco Whips. As a guitarist he already had experiences jamming alongside many celebrities from the world of cajun and zydeco. This makes him, like Sonny Landreth, an all-round musician that easily fits into the rich musical traditions of Louisiana and always open to other influences.

In his second roots and blues album so you can hear funk, jazz, swing and blues. Among the guest musicians you will again find the Foster sisters on backing vocals adding their soul treatment to songs such as "Eyes Talk" and the slow blues " (This Is Our) Last Goodbye" with a quasi- weeping guitar accompaniment. And other musicians, such as keyboardist Joe Krown, bassist Chris Chew and drummer Darryl White help make up the party. Chris Thomas King plays lap-slide guitar on some songs and zydeco musician Roy 'Chubby' Carrier leads with accordion on the cheerful "Zydeco Lady".

"Treme 3 AM " remains the purest New Orleans track, linked to the Treme neighborhood in New Orleans, which more than some other areas had been affected by the storm of violence and the ravages of Hurricane Katrina. Towards the end of the CD, this song is repeated as an instrumental, with trumpeter Shamarr Allen giving this song an extra emotional charge.

Peter Novelli is a master of all styles and manages to deliver relaxed and laidback blues combined with the energy of the big city. Like other musicians who landed in New Orleans, he inhaled the magic voodoo atmosphere and it touched him and filtered through his music.

Marcie, **Rootstime** (The Netherlands) January 2013