

Legendary Blues Band - Keepin' the Blues Alive (1990)

Written by bluesever

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01. *I Don't Wanna Know* 3:46 02. *Stuck in the Bottom* 4:49 03. *I Love My Woman* 3:12 [play](#)
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04. *Cook Me* 4:18 05. *Open Your Eyes* 3:54 06. *Nobody Knows* 3:02
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07. *Without Her* 3:08 08. *What's Wrong* 4:23 09. *Shake It for Me* 4:23 10. *Reach Way Back*
3:09 11. *Steady Worried Man* 2:32
Willie Smith- drums Billy Flynn- guitars Willie O'Shawny- keyboard Calvin Jones- bass Mark
Koenig- harp John Duich- guitars

The Legendary Blues Band includes Calvin Jones (b.1926, Greenwood, MS; bass, violin); Willie Smith (b.1935, Helena, AR; drum); various others on vocals, guitar, harmonica, piano. When the Muddy Waters band quit the master en masse in 1980, most of the sidemen stuck together and formed their own group. The Legendary Blues Band, as they were named, included Pinetop Perkins, Jerry Portnoy, Willie Smith, and Calvin Jones throughout its early years. Short-term member Louis Myers, another Muddy Waters alumnus, appeared as guitarist on the band's first album (Rounder, 1981). The band has since changed personnel with some regularity, and while its lineup has become progressively less "legendary" in name or historic associations, its music has remained solid and true to the mainstream Chicago style. In a later configuration, they even made the Billboard Black Music charts. Recent albums have featured guitarist Billy Flynn and harmonicist Madison Slim. The rhythm section of Jones and Smith has anchored the unit throughout the changes, never failing to deliver the Chicago blues with aplomb. ---Jim O'Neal. AMG.

Straight-ahead Chicago Blues from a band comprised of players who had been at the core of

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Muddy Waters' touring and recording band throughout most of the 1970s. At one time or another, the band has included Pinetop Perkins on piano, Jerry Portnoy on harmonica, Willie Smith on drums, and a rotating cast of guitar players.

Only bassist Calvin Jones and drummer Willie Smith remain from Muddy Waters's old crew, but guitarist John Duich helps keep the traditional Chicago sound in place. ---Bill Dahl, allmusic.com

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