

Ana Popovic - The Queen Of Blues Guitar (2007)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Love Fever* 04:34
02. *Game Of Love* 04:23
03. *Comfort To The Soul* 03:30
04. *Downtown* 04:28
05. *Neighbour, Neighbour* 05:14
06. *Mended* 04:27
07. *Sittin' On Top Of The World* 03:50
08. *Girl Of Many Words* 03:57
09. *The Hustle Is On* 02:47
10. *Don't Bear Down On Me (I'm Here To Steal The Show)* 03:57
11. *Walk Away* 03:27
12. *Recall The Days* 03:47
13. *New-York City* 04:36
14. *How Lonely Can A Woman Get* 04:03
15. *Love Me Again* 05:12
16. *Statesboro Blues* 03:52
17. *Change My Mind* 04:30

If you're not a blues purist, you'll love the fiery, passionate playing and singing of Yugoslavian blues-rock guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter Ana Popovic. Thanks to her father, the Belgrade-raised Popovic was introduced to the blues at an early age, through his wide-ranging record collection and jam sessions hosted at the Popovic home. Born on May 13, 1976, Popovic took up guitar when she was a teenager and formed her first band, Hush, in 1995. Within a year, with the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe, she was playing blues festivals in Greece and Hungary and working as an opening act for American blues masters, including Junior Wells.

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Popovic recorded her debut album with Hush in 1999, when she also moved to the Netherlands to study jazz guitar and world and pop music at the Conservatory of Music. She had the chance to see blues guitarist Bernard Allison at a club in Germany. He asked her to come on-stage and jam at the end of the show. While Allison invited Popovic to join him on a tour, she had to get back to the Jazz Academy in Holland. Allison asked for a copy of Popovic's record with Hush, and he sent it on to executives at Ruf Records in Germany, who were impressed with Popovic's powerful guitar playing and singing. Ruf contacted her to be part of their Jimi Hendrix tribute compilation, and then signed her to a recording deal of her own.

Several months after this, she was on her way to Memphis to record Hush! The album was well received by blues radio programmers and the non-blues purist segments of the American, European, and Canadian blues festival circuits. In the spring of 2001, she performed at the Memphis in May Festival alongside Bob Dylan, the Black Crowes, and Ike Turner. Within five years of leaving Yugoslavia, Popovic, now in her late twenties, had the chance to perform at many of the major European blues festivals, including Peer, Bishopstock, and Notodden. Along the way she's sat in with the likes of Allison, Michael Hill, and Kenny Neal. --- Richard Skelly, allmusic.com

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