

Delta Moon - Smith's Olde Bar, Atlanta 2005

Written by bluesever

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1. *You Don't Have To Go*
2. *Edna Mae*
3. *Officer*
4. *Can't Let Go*
5. *I'm Crying*
6. *Blue Highway*
7. *Goin' Down South*
8. *Somebody Been Usin' That Thing*
9. *Let Tomorrow Be*
10. *Shine The Light*
11. *Shakem On Down*
12. *Like My Lover Can*
13. *Must Be Lonely*
14. *Meantown*

Delta Moon has passed through several phases with respect to membership, but its essential nature remains the same. Perched in the rustic brush between dusty twang, muddy blues and simmering rock, each of its three studio albums have brought forth a new iteration, including the new one, *Howlin'*.

Delta Moon formed in the '90s, long after Gray had made his name with the Brains (penning the cynical single, "Money Changes Everything," later covered by Cyndi Lauper). Gray met Mark Johnson while living in the Inman Park area, and gave him lessons in slide guitar.

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As lessons became jam sessions, they recruited neighbor Gina Leigh to sing, and worked with a series of rhythm players before settling on drummer Scott Callison and bassist John Schwenke after Delta Moon's 2002 self-titled debut. As the band's profile grew, Leigh felt the pressure of more touring.

"There was a real conflict and I think her heart was really in her day job," says Gray. "It got to where this was becoming more than a part-time thing. She had to jump one way or another."

After attempting briefly to go forward as a four-piece, they tabbed Kristin Markiton to replace Leigh, and, after some tinkering with the sound, went into the studio with producer Jeff Bakos and new bassist Phil Skipper. According to Gray, Markiton's voice is a little higher than Leigh's, offering a sweetness reminiscent of Emmylou Harris. Her addition's taken the quintet a little closer to a Memphis sound.

"When we're singing together there's a lot of contrast, which is an important part of what we are trying to do," Gray says. "Plus, having a woman around makes for a whole different flavor. Put one in a van and the men act a little more civilized." ---Chris Parker, clatl.com

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