

## Rita Chiarelli - Just Gettin' Started (1994)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Just Gettin' Started* 2 *Shallow Water* 3 *Hurtin' Chain* 4 *Tupelo* [play](#) 5 *Heartbreak of the Week* 6 *Satisfied*

[play](#)

7 *Blue Rain* 8 *72nd Street* 9 *Lawless* 10 *Love Me* All songs composed by Rita Chiarelli except "Love Me" by Leiber & Stoller

Musicians: Rita Chiarelli - Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Vocals John Bride - Guitar, Electric Guitar, Guitar Solo Kevin Higgins - Electric Guitar, Guitar Solo Jack de Keyzer - Acoustic & Slide Guitar Colin Linden - Guitar, Acoustic Guitar Carmen Genovese - Guitar, Rhythm Guitar Dennis Pendrith - Bass Rod Phillips - Keyboards Al Cross - Drums John Switzer - Percussion, Tambourine Pat Carey - Baritone Sax Dave Dunlop - Tenor Sax Phil Dwyer - Trumpet Michael Pickett - Harmonica Johnny Wright, John P. Allen, Joan Bessen, Russell de Carle, Keith Glass, Clint Ryan, Gail Berry, Betty Richardson, Jackie Richardson - Background Vocals

Hamilton-born blues belter Rita Chiarelli is considered one of the few queens of the Canadian blues scene. 1994's *Just Gettin' Started* is a solid collection of frills-free blues-rock featuring some of the scene's top players, including hornsman Pat Carey, guitarist Colin Linden, and the members of *Prairie Oyster*. Chiarelli roars through familiar themes of heartbreak and revenge on these tracks, refusing to smooth out the rough edges and giving an even grittier feel to the low-budget recording. Most of the songs are more barroom rock than straight-up blues, yet while the passion is there, the songwriting really isn't. Singing about dust storms and *Tupelo, Mississippi*, is a bit rich when you're cutting your record in downtown Toronto. ---Matt Galloway

Rita Chiarelli is one of the most exciting new singers in Canada. Her unique blend of rock and

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blues has been compared favorably to Bonnie Raitt, Melissa Etheridge, and Susan Tedeschi. In 2000, she was named the "top blues singer" at Canada's Maple Leaf Awards. The world's discovery of Chiarelli comes after years of her paying dues. Singing with Hamilton, Ontario-based group Tempest at the age of 15, she toured throughout North America with a nine-piece R&B band, Battleaxe, after graduating from high school. Chiarelli continued to sharpen her chops as a member of Toronto-based rockabilly pioneer Ronnie Hawkins' group. After a year, however, she moved to Italy, where she worked as a studio vocalist for six years. Returning to Canada in the late '80s, Chiarelli had her first success when her tune "Have You Seen My Shoes?," which was featured in the film Roadkill. Releasing her debut album, Road Rocket, in 1992, she took things a step further with her second effort, Just Gettin' Started, three years later. Produced by Jane Siberry-producer John Switzer, the album showcased Chiarelli's hook-laden songwriting, with all but one song -- a cover of Elvis Presley's "Love Me" -- original. Long John Baldry covered Chiarelli's song, "Midnight in Berlin," on his 1996 album Right to Sing the Blues. Breakfast at Midnight, released in 2001, includes such guests as ex-Band keyboardist Richard Bell and guitarist Colin Linden. ---Craig Harris, Rovi

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