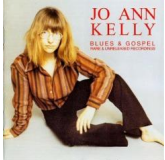


Jo Ann Kelly – Blues & Gospel (2004)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 09 July 2014 16:41 - Last Updated Thursday, 04 March 2021 18:28

Jo Ann Kelly – Blues & Gospel (2004)



1. *Long Black Hair* 2. *Boyfriend Blues* 3. *New Milk Cow Blues* 4. *I Looked Down the Line (and I Wondered)* 5. *Whose Been Telling You Buddie Brown Eyes* 6. *Black Rat Swing* 7. *Walking Blues* 8. *Just Like I Treat You* 9. *Sugar Babe* 10. *The Girl I Love, She Got Long Curly Hair* 11. *Special Baby Blues* 12. *Someday Baby Blues* 13. *Moon Going Down* 14. *Make Me a Pallet* 15. *Sweet Nothin's* 16. *Big Boss Man* Jo Ann Kelly - guitar, vocals

The Jo Ann Kelly archive has been very poorly treated over the years, with only Indigo's occasional forays during the late 1990s truly spotlighting one of Britain's most underrated, but highly-treasured, blues vocalists. Into this sorry state of affairs weighs Blues Matters!, the label wing of the magazine of the same name, with a collection that totally lives up to its title. Sixteen tracks, recorded between 1967-1984, are bundled up within, and capture Kelly ranging across the stylistic spectrum. The set kicks off with four numbers taken from a rare Harlequin blues EP compilation, recorded with Tony McPhee in 1965. This was not Kelly's first session, she'd done an earlier one for Mike Vernon's Purdah label, but that remains unreleased, and thus this was the music with which Kelly was introduced to the world. Also featured are a pair of tracks from another scarce blues Harlequin compilation, this one released by the label in 1968, as well as a few more taken from other various rare collections. However, the bulk of the album boasts a stream of superb unreleased material, including no less than five songs recorded with guitarist Stefan Grossman during his U.K. tour in the summer of 1977. Kelly guested at several of his shows during that outing, and her performances -- captured for posterity on-tape by Grossman's own tape recorder, and unveiled here for the first time, are as powerful as any of her own period recordings. A wonderful album that hopefully will bring Kelly the acclaim she so justly deserves. --- Jo-Ann Greene, Album Note

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