

## Joe Beard (feat. Ronnie Earl & The Broadcasters) - Blues Union (1996)

Written by bluesever

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- 01 - Lay For Me Sometime 04:42
- 02 - Just To Be With You 05:26
- 03 - I Count The Days You're Gone 03:33
- 04 - Sinners Prayer 07:29
- 05 - Sally Mae 02:58 [play](#)
- 06 - Please Don't Light The Flame 04:48
- 07 - Feets Out In The Hall 06:32
- 08 - Think 03:21
- 09 - Telling It Like It Is 08:26
- 10 - Don't Know Why 04:08 [play](#)
- 11 - Late In The Evening 03:47

Joe Beard - guitar, vocals  
Ronnie Earl - guitar  
Bruce Katz - Hammond B-3 organ, piano  
Bill Struve - acoustic bass  
Per Hanson - drums  
Rod Carey - bass  
Joe Dubuc - harmonica  
David "Fathead" Newman - tenor saxophone

Although Joe Beard is a country-based bluesman and fellow guitarist Ronnie Earl (who brought along his Broadcasters for this set) is strictly city, they work together quite well. The emphasis is often on Beard's expressive vocals (which sometimes look toward John Lee Hooker and Lightnin' Hopkins but display their own personality). Beard and Earl contribute contrasting guitar solos, pianist-organist Bruce Katz fuels a grooving rhythm section, tenor saxophonist David "Fathead" Newman has a couple of cameos and the harmonica of Joe Dubuc is a strong asset on three songs. Even with its nods toward the past, this release is a fine example of blues in the

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mid-'90s. –Scott Yanow

Joe Beard's first release for AQM, Blues Union featuring Ronnie Earl & the Broadcasters, was one of the biggest blues surprises of 1996. New Orleans' influential Offbeat Magazine named it the "Blues Album of the Year". Critics worldwide were overwhelmed by this Mississippi born bluesman and former neighbor and playing partner of the great Son House. In reality, blues greats such as Ronnie Earl and Duke Robillard have been singing Beard's praises for many years. And both jumped at the chance to record with Joe. For Real finds Joe Beard fronting a blues dream team consisting of the great guitar stylist Robillard (fresh from sessions for Dylan's latest masterpiece) along with Bruce Katz, Per Hanson and Rod Carey - better known as Ronnie Earl's crack band "The Broadcasters" until a few months ago. Jerry Portnoy, known for his awesome harp work with Muddy Waters and Eric Clapton, joins in on four of the tracks. For Real is a potent combination of Beard originals and homages to Joe's main men, Lightning Hopkins and John Lee Hooker. Listen ... Joe Beard is For Real!

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