

Marlene Cummins - Koori Woman Blues (2014)

Written by bluesever

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01. Pension Day Blues (4:23) 02. Payback (4:25) 03. Barefoot Boy (2:35) 04. Prelude To Koori Woman (0:20) 05. Koori Woman (5:54) 06. When Will We Be Paid (3:51) 07. Sugar (4:39) 08. Boomerang Alley (3:43) 09. You Can't Win (3:54) 10. Sassy (Murri) Mama (6:27) 11. Feels Like Rain (5:13) 12. The Blues It Knows Your Name (4:55) 13. Insufficient Funds (2:27) 14. Some Kind Of Wonderful (3:40) 15. Santa Bring Me A Man For Christmas (3:52)
Marlene – vocals, alto sax Gil Askey – trumpet Fiona Boyes, Buddy Knox, Ray Beadle, Jerome Smith – guitar Mark Atkins – didgeridoo Joel Davis, Murray Cook – keyboards Stefan Sernak – accordion Andy Baylor – mandolin Shannon Barnett – trombone Paul Williamson - baritone sax

Despite a stellar career as a saxophone player and blues musician with hits like Pension Day Blues and Pemulwuy, Marlene is only now preparing to release her full debut album, Koori Woman Blues. The album presents a biographical journey comprised of a mixture of original and traditional blues numbers. The album's centrepiece is the stirring epic blues anthem, Koori Woman. Marlene dedicates this song to Aboriginal women everywhere as they were, in her words, 'the backbone of the struggle'. --- marlenecummins.com

The Indigenous releases of 2014 are proving as interesting for their backstories as the music they present, and the debut album of Marlene Cummins, the subject of the recent Sydney Film Festival premiere of Black Panther Woman, is no exception. Australia's foremost Indigenous blues musician puts some often humorous spins on courageous stories of women's rights, injustice and addiction, cleverly inserting the former when the title track pays tribute to significant historical figures Truganinni and Oodgeroo Nunuccal in a familiar blues standard, with flourishes of didge. An easy listen, packed full of cultural lessons. --- Tyler McLoughlan,

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