

Laura Cheadle - Where The Blues Hangs Out (2014)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Where the Blues Hangs Out* 2:44 2. *This Love Looks Good on Me* 4:19 3. *As Long as You Love Me* 3:44 4. *Morning* 3:45 5. *Rock Me Baby* 4:26 6. *The Best That It Could Feel* 5:04 7. *Teach You to Love* 2:41 8. *Change (It's Alright)* 7:15 9. *Midst of Your Mystery* 5:24 10. *This Life Is Made to Dance* 3:13 11. *Summertime* 6:32 12. *Blue Sky* 3:58 13. *Call It Stormy Monday (But Tuesday Is Just as Bad) [Live]* 4:19 Laura Cheadle - vocals, guitar J.S. Cheadle - piano, organ, guitar, drums, bass and background vocals Jim Lee Cheadle - electric guitar Sue Cheadle, Madi Hart, Maddie Brewer - background vocals B.W. Smith - drums Mikey Jr., Steve Guyger - harp Bobby Michaels - saxophone Jeff "Blondie" Van Stenz - trumpet

As the nursery rhyme states, what are girls made of? "Sugar and spice and everything nice." Contrast Mother Goose with horror god Stephen King, who characterized the blues as "mean music" in his 2014 novel *Revival*. Female blues vocalists typically fall into either the "sugar" camp (e.g. Dani Wilde and Claudia Carawan) or the "spice" camp (e.g. Janis Joplin, Etta James, and Nina Simone). The best chanteuses in this genre run the gamut of both, switching with ease, even within the same song. At one moment, they croon with unrequited love, and at the next, they wail in agony. It's a daunting feat to accomplish. Only a handful can pull it off perfectly. New Jersey's Laura Cheadle tries her best on *Where the Blues Hangs Out*, but she's almost all sugar. On thirteen songs, ten originals and three covers, she warbles like a lark on mellow blues. The few times she does wail, a la Joplin, her pitch might be too high for some folks' ears. Laura's music is more suited for the piano bar than the traditional brash blues bars.

According to her website, "Laura Cheadle Family Blues Band have many accomplishments under their belt opening for: The Jonas Brothers, Sister Hazel, Spin Doctors, Ryan Cabrera, Kasim Sulton, Terrence Simien, Garland Jeffreys, John Oates/Hall and Oates, Average White Band, Clarence Clemons III for Bruce Springsteen's *After Party* and Constantine Maroulis of *American Idol*. These South Jersey Natives and current Philadelphia residents have toured nationally and internationally everywhere from the East Coast/West Coast to London. The Cheadle's have appeared on 6ABC's *Tuned In* as the very first viewers' choice, The NBC 10

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Show, the national reality show ‘Next Great Family Band” on NBC/Cosi TV. Laura Cheadle was named a “Super Woman” in South Jersey Magazine for her active charity work. A very recent accomplishment: Laura Cheadle Family Blues Band just recently won “Best Indie Jazz/Blues Band of The Year” 2014 at Tri State Indie Music Awards sponsored by WXPN.”

Laura’s artistic style is warm and good natured, but for heart-pumping, beer-drinking blues, listeners may look elsewhere. Perhaps next time, she and her family will try a darker tone and sharper edge, especially when they play covers such as “Stormy Monday” (featured on this album). Her voice is as sweet as candy, but if it were more like Red Hots instead of Pixy Stix, it might suit more people’s taste. ---Rainey Wetnight, bluesblastmagazine.com

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