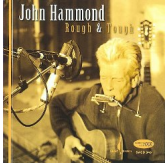


John Hammond - Rough & Tough (2009)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 28 October 2009 17:22 - Last Updated Monday, 08 March 2021 15:42

John Hammond - Rough & Tough (2009)



01. *My Mind Is Ramblin'* 02. *Still A Fool* 03. *Up The Line* 04. *My Time After Awhile* 05. *Got To Find My Baby* 06. *She's Tough* 07. *Chattanooga Choo Choo* 08. *Statesboro Blues* 09. *I Can Tell* 10. *Get Behind The Mule* 11. *No Place To Go* 12. *Slick Crown* 13. *Come To Find Out* 14. *It Hurts Me Too* 15. *I Can't Be Satisfied* John Hammond – guitar, harmonica, vocals.

John Hammond, Jr. has produced many hallmark albums during a 50-year career and 35 recordings, but *Rough & Tough* might top them all. Playing solo on a variety of guitars, a harmonica, and singing up a storm, Hammond acoustically interprets songs of the legendary bluesmen that established the urban Chicago train of thought. His choices should be very familiar to most blues fans, but the way he plays them are a throwback to pre-electric, back-porch days, when simplicity was the norm rather than amped-up volume. The energy is within Hammond's soul, and he lets it loose for every track of this extraordinary album. Interpreting songs by Muddy Waters and Little Walter comes naturally, but he also tackles tunes like Howlin' Wolf's "My Mind Is Ramblin'," and especially the low-down and dirty "No Place to Go," "Statesboro Blues," "It Hurts Me Too," and the delightful swing jazz classic "Chattanooga Choo Choo" are included, as well as Jerry McCain's more contemporary "She's Tough." Two originals by Hammond, "Slick Crown Vic" in boogie mode and the easygoing "Come to Find Out" are unearthed from previous recordings, emphasizing that he also stands proud as a presence among these giants. This is a flawless example of John Hammond's capabilities in presenting authentic blues with a feeling and passion that few artists can match, and comes with a high recommendation, and a well-deserved 2009 Grammy nomination for Best Traditional Blues Album. --- Michael G. Nastos, Allmusic.com

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