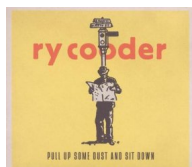


Ry Cooder – Pull Up Some Dust And Sit Down (2011)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 05 September 2011 19:06 - Last Updated Sunday, 23 June 2013 20:49

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1. *No Banker Left Behind* 3:36 2. *El Corrido De Jesse James* 4:17 3. *Quick Sand* 3:17 4. *Dirty Chateau* 5:29 5. *Humpty Dumpty World* 4:18 6. *Christmas Time This Year* 2:49 7. *Baby Joined The Army* 6:35 8. *Lord Tell Me Why* 3:01 [play](#) 9. *I Want My Crown* 2:37 [play](#)
10. *John Lee Hooker For President* 6:08 11. *Dreamer* 5:06 12. *Simple Tools* 5:07 13. *If There's A God* 3:06 14. *No Hard Feelings* 5:52

Personnel: Ry Cooder – bajo sexto, banjo, bass, composer, guitar, keyboards, mandola, mandolin, marimba, vocals Rene Camacho – bass Edgar Castro – bass drums, snare drums, percussion, timbales Juliette Commagere – background vocals Joachim Cooder – bass, drums Raúl Cuellar – violin Terry Evans – background vocals Robert Francis – bass Arturo Gallardo – alto saxophone, clarinet, saxophone Carlos Gonzalez – trumpet Willie Green – background vocals Jesus Guzman – violin Ismael Hernandez – violin Flaco Jiménez – accordion Jimmy Cuellar – violin Jim Keltner – composer, drums Arnold McCuller – background vocals Pablo Molina – alto horn, sousaphone Erasto Robles – trombone

Pull Up Some Dust and Sit Down, issued between two national election cycles, is the most overtly political album Ry Cooder has ever released, and one of his funniest, most musically compelling ones, too. Cooder looks deeply into his musical past using his entire Americana musical arsenal: blues, folk, ragtime, norteño, rock, and country here. Opener "No Banker Left Behind" updates Civil War-era marching music. Cooder's guitar, banjo, bass, and mandola lead drummer (and son) Joachim through a scathing indictment of the the financial bailout in 2007. The marching rhythms are punched through with sharp banjo and mandola riffs as Cooder's signature electric guitar sound frames them. "El Corrido Jesse James" has the outlaw speaking from heaven in waltz time. Accompanied by Flaco Jimenez's accordion and a horn section, James claims that while he was a bank robber, he never "turned a family from their house," and asks God for his trusty .44 to "put that bonus money back where it belongs." "Quick Sand" is a shuffling electric rocker that addresses the plight of illegal immigrants crossing into Arizona. "Christmas Time This Year" is the most incendiary anti-war song in a decade, presented innocently as a Mexican polka. "Lord Tell Me Why" borrows production techniques from Tom Waits, with co-writer and drummer Jim Keltner who assists in getting across this biting, ironic

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gospel tune: "Lord tell me why a white man/Ain't worth nothin' in this world no more...." An 11-piece band assists in "I Want My Crown," a scorching, growling blues with Cooder's nasty guitar leading the charge. It's followed by the album's finest moment, "John Lee Hooker for President," where Cooder does a shockingly accurate impression of the late bluesman, in fine boogie mode, paying a visit to the White House, not liking what he sees, and deciding to run for office: "I'm compastatic. I ain't Republican or Democratic." He names Jimmy Reed as Veep and Johnny Taylor Secretary of State. His campaign promises swift retribution for injustice and a "groove time" for the nation. If only. The depth of Cooder's rage is quieter but more direct as the album draws to a close. In "If There Is a God," God's been driven from heaven by redistricting; he, "Jesus, Mary and Joe" all hit the road for Mexico. God goes so far as to say he thinks the "Republiklan" legislature wants to bring back Jim Crow laws. Cooder's sorrow about the environment is pervasive in the final corrido, though he, like the Buddha, leaves room for tolerance, wishing his enemies "No Hard Feelings." Those who've followed Cooder from the beginning will find much to love on Pull Up Some Dust and Sit Down. Those music fans unfamiliar with his work but looking for a comrade in arms will find one here. That said, this is revolution music; worthy of dancing to, learning from, and singing along with: who says topical music has to be boring? ---Thom Jurek, Rovi

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