

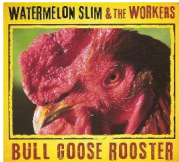
## Watermelon Slim & The Workers- Bull Goose Rooster (2013)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 04 August 2013 13:48 -

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*01. Tomorrow Night 02. Bull Goose Rooster 03. Over The Horizon 04. Vigilante Man 05. A Wrench In The Machine 06. I'm A King Bee 07. Prison Walls 08. Blue Freightliner 09. Scratch My Back 10. I Ain't Whistling Dixie 11. Take My Mother Home 12. The Wobble 13. Trucking Class 14. Northwest Passage 15. The Foreign Policy Blues 16. Words Are Coming To An End*

Musicians: Watermelon Slim - Acoustic Slide Guitar, Dobro, Handclapping, Harmonica, Vocals Cliff Belcher - Bass (Electric), Vocals Ike Lamb - Guitar (Electric) Ronnie "Mack" McMullen - Guitar (Electric), Handclapping, Vocals Michael Newberry - Arranger, Drums, Handclapping, Percussion, Vocals + Dennis Bobycki - Piano Doctor Lacumba - Gong Fred Litwin - Handclapping, Vocals (Background) Gary Nicholson - Guitar (Acoustic) Danielle Schnebelen - Duet, Vocals

Watermelon Slim hasn't worked with his backing band the Workers since 2008, so this 2013 reunion is something of a big deal, and the old bluesman treats Blue Goose Rooster as something of an event. During his time away from his backing band, Slim cut some country, so he uses this lengthy album to consolidate all of his musical interests, dabbling in that driving hardcore country, but also old-fashioned folk hollers, Woody Guthrie covers, a bit of gospel, and a whole lot of hard-charging roadhouse blues which, of course, is the Workers' forte. As that high-octane blues kicks off the record, it first seems that Blue Goose Rooster covers familiar ground, but by the time Slim is duetting with Trampled Under Foot's Danielle Schnebelen on the skeletal "Over the Horizon," it's clear that Slim is taking chances. At times, his grizzled, toothless, close-miked voice can be somewhat wearying -- it is not as versatile as his music -- but it's hard to deny the restlessness and adventure that drives Watermelon Slim, nor is it impossible to acknowledge the element that the Workers bring to the equation on the varied Bull Goose Rooster. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

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