

John Scofield – Blue Matter (1987)

Written by bluesever

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01 – *Blue Matter* 02 – *Trim* 03 – *Heaven Hill* 04 – *So You Say* 05 – *Now She's Blonde* 06 – *Make Me [play](#)* 07 – *The Nag* 08 – *Time Marches On* Personnel : John Scofield – Guitar Gary Grainger – Bass Dennis Chambers – Drums Mitchell Forman – Keyboards Hiram Bullock – Rhythm Guitar Don Alias – Percussion

One of the top jazz guitarists from the mid-1980s on, John Scofield has always had a very recognizable sound and the ability to combine together R&B/funk with advanced jazz. He is the lead voice throughout most of this release, performing eight of his originals with a group also including keyboardist Mitchel Forman, electric bassist Gary Grainger, drummer Dennis Chambers, percussionist Don Alias and (on three of the numbers) Hiram Bullock on rhythm guitar. Although not for jazz purists, who should get his slightly later Blue Note releases instead, this set should interest guitar freaks. ---Scott Yanow, allmusic.com

BLUE MATTER is finger-poppin' good. Sco's brand of jazz/blues rock is red-hot and scorching on this superb set, aided by journeyman Dennis Chambers on the traps, keyboardist Mitchell Forman, Weather Report alumnus Don Alias (providing percussives), and engaging bassist Gary Grainger. In fact, Grainger's funk-pop licks are what anchor the superb title track to earth, providing the right base for Scofield's conversant guitar fronds and Forman's dreamy keys.

On "Trim", Scofield bounces some Wes Montgomery spikes all over a rousing funkscape. The disc also offers the brash urban kickstep of "So You Say" and the introspective frissons surrounding "Time Marches On." Like fellow guitar master Pat Metheny, Scofield understands

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subtlety and finesse. He knows when to amplify and when to relax. With BLUE MATTER, he demonstrates that his ability to swing finds its ideal middle ground between both poles.

---cduniverse.com

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