

Ben Vaughn - Texas Road Trip (2014)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 07 February 2015 16:41 - Last Updated Wednesday, 25 October 2017 09:03

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1 Boomerang 2 Miss Me When I'm Gone 3 I'll Stand Alone 4 Fire In The Hole 5 Texas Rain 6 Sleepless Nights 7 She Fell Out The Window 8 Heavy Machinery 9 Seven Days Without Love 10 Six By Six Mike Buck - Drums Alvin Crow - Fiddle Scott Esbeck - Vocals (Background) Augie Meyers - Accordion, Piano, Vox Organ John X. Reed - Guitar Speedy Sparks - Bass Ben Vaughn - Composer, Guitar, Harmonica, Producer, Vocals

Texas music has always been a big mess, and that is probably the biggest single thing that has made it stand tall. There are so many wild strains running through it - from blues to country to jazz to soul to rock to, yes, even hip hop- that it's impossible to keep track of what's what. But confusion is good, because as long as a listener can't quite pin down what makes their monkey nerve twitch they'll keep coming back for more.

Ben Vaughn got bit early by the heat in the Texas beat. More specifically, as a young kid in New Jersey Vaughn tuned into San Antonio's Sir Douglas Quintet. There was a wildness in the Quintet's hit 'She's About a Mover', some wiggleness that just would not stop. Sir Douglas Sahn and his cohorts had the magic in them. There was no other way to put it. It was like there was a fire burning in the Quintet's collective soul that could not be put out.

Vaughn also has that fire, and in a dream come true he's gone to the source in Texas to record an album with several Sir Douglas veterans, including main keyboard man Augie Meyers. That alone is like having the Crown Prince on hand. Then there's Alvin Crow, Speedy Sparks, John X Reed and Mike Buck. With a musical bunch like that there is no way to miss the bull's eye. Ben Vaughn has delivered an album full of original songs, ones that capture the wild wind of the Sir Douglas Quintet while adding some modern velocity to the sonics, that will light up the skies and surely make even Sir Doug himself smile as he floats through the cosmos making sure the groove never stops. Far-out for sure. ---Bill Bentley, munster-records.com

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