

Anson Funderburgh & The Rockets - Which Way Is Texas? (2003)

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01. *Can We Get Together* 03:20 02. *One Woman I Need* 03:14 03. *Tryin' To Get Back On My Feet* 02:47 04. *Rambling Woman* 03:00 05. *Some Sunny Day* 02:42 06. *Going My Way?* 04:47 07. *The Last Tune* 02:37 08. *Don't Turn This Child Away From Heaven* 03:51 09. *Hoodoo Party* 03:31 10. *Toss And Turn* 02:45 11. *Jungle* 03:43 12. *I Need To Know* 03:17 13. *Crutch And Cane* 03:56 Anson Funderburgh (vocals, guitar) Sam Myers (vocals, harmonica) Mark "Kaz" Kazanoff (alto saxophone, tenor saxophone) John H.R. Mills (baritone saxophone) Gary Slechta (trumpet) Gentleman John Street (piano) Eric Mathew Przygocki, John Bradley (acoustic bass) Wes Starr (drums, percussion)

On his second outing on Bullseye, bluesman Anson Funderburgh & the Rockets deliver a solid album. "Can We Get Together" offers a spunky lead track with Sam Myers on vocals and the Texas Horns adding an extra bit of pizzazz. Funderburgh offers one of his rare vocals on "One Women I Need," a nice ballad with Gentleman John Street's piano and organ providing an atmospheric backdrop. The instrumental "Going My Way?" gives Funderburgh, Street, drummer Wes Starr, and bassist Johnny Bradley a chance to kick out the jams, while the band pays its dues to classic blues on good versions of Johnny Walker's "Rambling Woman" and B.B. King/Joe Josea's "Jungle." The album kicks into high gear on upbeat renditions of Sonny Boy Williamson's "Tryin' to Get Back on My Feet" and Tabby Thomas/Mark Dee's boogie-friendly "Hoodoo Party." Both of these benefit from spry guitar and piano work, and Meyers' exuberant vocal. Overall, the album also benefits from tight ensemble playing, a quality that undoubtedly comes from spending 300 days a year on the road together. For fans of Funderburgh's previous albums, and for anyone who enjoys electric blues, *Which Way Is Texas?* will prove a pleasing purchase. --- Ronnie D. Lankford, Jr., Rovi

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