Wpisany przez bluesever Piątek, 09 Październik 2015 15:57 - Zmieniony Wtorek, 02 Luty 2021 21:45

## **Guy Belanger - Crossroads (2010)**



1. Where The Buffalo Sleeps 2. Got The Blues 3. Catch That Train 4. Don't Try To Explain (Avec Kim Richardson) 5. Essaouira 6. Who's Been Talkin' 7. Chassé-Croisé 8. Crossroads 9. Jack Of Hearts 10. Blue (Avec Éric Lapointe) 11. Kamikaze 12. Pleasin' You 13. Coyote 14. Sporting Life 15. 1-2-3... Harmo Guy Belanger – vocals, harmonica Gilles Sioui – guitar (acoustic), vocals André Lachance – guitar, vocals Rob MacDonald – guitars Claude Fradette – guitar Karl Surprenant – bass Kim Richardson – vocals Jean-Fernand Girard – piano Marc-André Larocque – drums Mélissa Lavergne – percussion

This is his second solo CD and they both take the harmonica to some unexpected places. A 'Crossroads' is a meeting place of various paths but here it's also the name of the album's centerpiece song. This is not the Robert Johnson composition but another one that was a hit in Europe for a transplanted Texas country singer named Calvin Russell. Bélanger's arrangement is so bluesy & personalized, you might not ever guess its origins. Guitarist Gilles Sioui also handles the vocals, as he does for most of the CD. The CD opens with a tribute to the late Norton Buffalo and pays tribute to Sonny Terry & Brownie McGhee as well ("Catch That Train" & "Sportin' Life"). Kim Richardson handles the vocal on another highlight, Keb' Mo"s "Don't Try To Explain", a wonderful soul blues. A couple of columns ago, I reviewed a CD of Quebec pop stars singing blues and I wondered if Eric Lapointe's version of the Tom Waits tune "Blue Valentine" would have a life in another context. Well here he is with Lucinda Williams' song "Blue" and another fine performance, with Bélanger & the band. Bélanger does do one vocal and it's an Anders Osborne song "Pleasin' You". He does a fine job, with Kim Richardson on hand as a whole chorus (a specialty of hers). There are several harmonica instrumentals among the 15-song program including "Jack Of Hearts" which provides a most welcome change of pace after the eight-minute "Crossroads" and "Kamikaze" which features Bélanger on several harmonicas. This is one crossroads you may want to visit. I think you'll be returning often. ---John Valenteyn, torontobluessociety.com

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