

BLUES MATTERS!

"The BLUES without the blinkers!"

(UK)

RICH DEL GROSSO & JONN DEL TORO RICHARDSON

Time Slips On By

Mandolin Blues

Rich DelGrosso is known as the Mandolin Man and here he teams up with fiery guitar player Jonn Del Toro Richardson for an album of rocking Texas Blues and Roots. Opening track 'Baby Do Wrong' is an absolute cracker which rocks furiously and sets the scene for the rest of the album. DelGrosso leads the way on mandolin and bottleneck and then trades licks with Richardson's sparkling guitar as the pair groove splendidly on this Texas shuffle. Title track 'Time Slips On By' is a soulful blast which features Richardson's honey toned vocals all topped off by the wonderful Texas Horns featuring "Kaz" Kazanoff who also produced the album. The steady rockin' and aptly named 'Mandolin Man' gives DelGrosso the spotlight and also features Sonny Boy Terry on swampy harmonica. The material is all self penned and there's not a weak tune or less than stellar performance on the album. 'Katalin' is a sweet, soulful, ballad featuring particularly chiming, tasteful, slide guitar and extra colour from Joel Guzman on accordion. Funky horns and spiky guitar riffs introduce 'Shotgun Blues' which features some fine organ from Nick Connolly and gruff vocals from DelGrosso. The pace drops for 'Hard To Live With' a heartfelt plea which features impeccable tone and tasteful playing from Richardson. 'Where's Laura' is a swinging instrumental before the rocking boogie of 'A Gig Is A Gig' kicks in featuring great thumping piano from Nick Connolly. A nice laid back rhythm and accordion flourishes feature on the slinky 'Summertime Is Here' a tale of barbecues and beer - sounds good to me! 'She's Sweet' is a joyful blast of Chicago Blues featuring superb wailing harmonica from Sonny Boy Terry. 'Good Rockin' Johnny' does what it says on the tin and then the album closes with 'Baby Please' a classic slow blues with both men in fine form as they share the limelight on vocals and solos. This is a fine album brimming with energy and packed with good songs, clever arrangements and exuberant and masterful playing. Although this review is being written in February this album has to be a contender when the gongs are handed out later this year.

Dave Drury