



Compact Dreams (column of CD reviews)

They're masters, plain and simple, and *Time Slips On By* is an exceptional set of songs, also *very* plain and simple. Besides their names being a tongue twister, **Rich DelGrosso and Jonn Del Toro Richardson** entwine ass-shakin' funky, countrified, and big and soulful blues on a mandolin and a guitar with a wicked hot band in their engine room. With a little deceptively simple plucking of that crazy mandolin, DelGrosso jump-starts the album with his "Baby Do Wrong," his box o' rocks voice, locomotive riffs, and sparks-a-flyin' licks doing nothing but right. Guitarist Richardson plays with restrained taste and heaps of soul, and has just enough of a serrated edge in his voice to drive a song deep. The south of the border soul of Richardson's title song calls to mind Los Lobos, the effect of it greatly enhanced by dexterous DelGrosso mandolin leads as well as "Kaz" Kazanoff and his Texas Horns. "Hard To Live With" has the laid back feel of a "Stormy Monday" and the exceptional interplay of a "Liz Reed." You'd be hard-pressed to find anyone else playing the blues like Rich DelGrosso and Jonn Del Toro Richardson. (MandolinBlues.com)

Tom Clarke
