



TIME SLIPS ON BY

Rich Del Grosso & Jonn Del Toro Richardson

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Don't let the size of the instrument fool you. From the opening notes of Rich Del Grosso's National RM 1 mandolin with its metal resonator, the listener is drawn into Blues notes that, if the CD had a background of static, one could have sworn they were listening to a Blues recording from the '20s or '30s with the vamp vibe of "Baby Do Wrong." Rich's powerful vocal is most suitable for Blues and his backbeat is awesome. Later in the song Jonn Del Toro Richardson introduces his electric guitar sounds that propel the song into the current century. This is great opening track that will keep this CD in your player for more. The title track is up next with accompaniment by the 3 piece Texas Horns and Jonn's own appealing Blues vocal sounds. It is almost reminiscent of the sounds of Electric Flag with Rich's mandolin replacing Mike Bloomfield's guitar leads. "Mandolin Man" features Sonny Boy Terry on Blues harp as Rich mentions each of the mandolin Blues predecessors that inspired him in this tradition. Rich then imitates each of these artists by reflecting their particular playing style in the song. This would be a great song to be played at any "Blues in the Schools" class as it is a history lesson as well as a great song. Rich, with his strong vocals certainly puts the "Man" in "Mandolin!" There are eleven other songs on this well-packaged CD and each song could stand on its own as a single. I listened to "Time Slips On By" about a dozen times before doing the review and it was just as exciting each time it was played. You really should seek out your own copy at www.mandolinblues.com as "Time Slips On By" should be in every Blues lover's collection. Rich Del Grosso's mandolin playing is pure virtuosity and Jonn Del Toro Richardson's guitar work and vocals are equally compelling. Enjoy—this is a real Blues treat!

Pete Sardon