

# BLUES & RHYTHM

## **RICH DELGROSSO & JONN DEL TORO RICHARDSON: Time Slips On By Mandolin Blues MB10002 (63:35)**

Baby Do Wrong/ Time Slips On By/ Mandolin Man/ Katalin/ Shotgun Blues/ Hard To Live With/ Where's Laura?/ A Gig Is A Gig/ Summertime Is Here/ I Wish I'd Heard/ The Real Deal/ She's Sweet/ Good Rockin Johnny/ Baby Please

Straight out of the legendary Wire Recording complex in Austin, Texas comes Houston-based DelGrosso's latest that quite effectively teams the solidly rocking string wizard (electrified National resonator mandolin, Gibson mandola and bottle-neck slide guitarist) with Southeast Texas-cured guitarist (and standout vocalist) Jonn Del Toro Richardson on fourteen inspired originals, divided pretty evenly between the pair. They are tidily accompanied by their favourite in-the-pocket rhythm section of drummer Carl Owens and bassist Ed Starkey along with special guests on the order of keyboardist Nick Connolly (who really shakes things up on the honky-tonker, 'A Gig Is A Gig'), Houston harmonica champion Sonny Boy Terry (check out the barn-burner, 'She's Sweet'), plaintive Mexican accordionist Joel Guzman (his dance-oriented lines on both 'Katalin' and 'Summertime Is Here' seal the deal) and what would East Texas bayou blues be without producer Mark 'Kaz' Kazanoff's ever-greasy three-man Texas Horns, with the tenor sax ace joined by the fiery duo of baritone saxophonist John Mills and trumpeter Al Gomez. Yellow Dog blues musician Fiona Boyes also puts in an appearance vocally on the aforementioned 'Gig' lament.

Particular groovers, in addition to those already cited, include the seven-minute slow-burner 'Hard To Live With' (where Richardson's vintage Silvertone ardently pleads his case), a hard-grinding, Chicago-styled tribute to blues mandolin pioneer Charlie McCoy called 'Mandolin Man' (with Terry complementing the duo nicely with some piercing Southside harp-work), the rough-dried, passionate stomper, 'Baby Do Wrong' (with DelGrosso on the mandola) along with Richardson's contemplative title cut, where he picks up his 1959 Stratocaster. Also noteworthy are the aptly titled up-tempo instrumental workout, 'Hard Rocking Johnny' and the downbeat plea, 'Baby Please', along with a couple punctuated effectively by the Texas Horns – a soulful 'Shotgun Blues' (with Connolly chiming in on the mighty B-3) and the declamatory instrumental 'Where's Laura?'. A breath of fresh air for the blues.

- Gary von Tersch