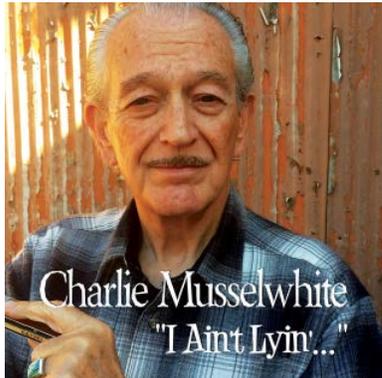


CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE – “I Ain’t Lyin’ . . .”

radio promotion contact: Brad Hunt, The WNS Group (585) 765-2083, bhsabres@aol.com



Charlie’s riveting Sonoma County show brought his unstoppable, hard hitting, tone heavy sound to the audience who couldn’t get enough. Luckily someone had turned on the tape and Charlie knew just what to do – he took the tapes down to Clarksdale MS and delivered them into the capable mixing and mastering hands of Gary Vincent who in collaboration with Charlie, brought Mississippi mud to this exceptional live recording.

I AIN’T LYIN’ is all Charlie. The cd is a group of painstakingly crafted original tunes penned by the hand of this Mississippi master that resonate with the land of Mississippi itself. Charlie’s music rises from the river, crosses the levy, dances through the streets and cuts straight to the heart of what it is to be alive.

Fifty years of nonstop touring, performing and recording have reaped huge rewards. Charlie Musselwhite is living proof that great music only gets better with age. This man cut his (musical) teeth alongside Muddy Waters, Howling Wolf and everyone on the south side of Chicago in the early 1960’s – thank your lucky stars he is still with us telling the truth with a voice and harp tone like no other.

Charlie Musselwhite may be the only musician to get a huge ovation just for opening his briefcase. Fans know that’s where he keeps his harmonicas and they’re about to hear one of the true masters work his magic on the humble instrument.

Musselwhite is, and always will be, a bluesman of the highest order. But he’s taken blues harp from the clubs on the Southside of Chicago (where “Memphis Charlie” and Mike Bloomfield backed Big Joe Williams) to places it’s never been before, both musically and physically. He’s soloed to “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun” with Cyndi Lauper on *Good Morning America*; wailed on “Echo Bells” with Japan’s Kodo drummers (produced by the Grateful Dead’s Mickey Hart); and mixed blues with Cuban *son* legend Eliades Ochoa, each playing on the other’s album. He’s jammed on stage with Mick Jagger and recorded with such diverse artists as INXS, Tom Waits, bluegrass fiddler Vassar Clements, gospel Blind Boys of Alabama, and even Cat Stevens. And shortly before winning the Grammy for Best Blues Album for their collaboration *Get Up!*, he and Ben Harper played at the White House for President Obama and the First Lady, in a salute to Memphis soul. Charlie explains, “It’s fun and interesting and challenging to me to get to play in a new setting and do tunes that are different than the usual I-IV-V and 12 bars.”

“Meeting Charlie was huge to me,” said Ben Harper in reference to the GET UP project. “Knowing his music but also his commitment to the blues and everything he brought to that. When you get the call to sit at the table with kings, you better have a well-pressed suit. I knew that time would come, so I kept setting material aside. But Charlie Musselwhite is the north star of this record. We were following him. The songs really came to life around Charlie and his sensibilities. We revolved around him and his harp; you can hear that.”

2016 will mark the 50th anniversary of Charlie’s debut album, the classic *Stand Back! Here Comes Charlie Musselwhite’s South Side Band*, which he recorded at age 22. That band featured legendary blues drummer Fred Below (of the Aces and countless sessions with Chicago’s blues giants), along with keyboardist Barry Goldberg and guitarist Harvey Mandel. In addition to guest turns by Marty Stuart, Charlie Sexton, Dave Gonzales, Stefan Grossman, and G.E. Smith, and stints by Chicago greats Luther Tucker, Freddie Roulette, Louis Myers, and Fenton Robinson, his groups have been a virtual finishing school for guitar slingers, such as Robben Ford, Junior Watson, Tim Kaihatsu and Kid Andersen.

But Charlie’s current band ranks with the best he’s ever had. It features drummer June Core, bassist Steve Froberg, and guitarist Matt Stubbs. As for their bandleader, at 71 Charlie is truly at the top of his game, as evidenced by *I Ain’t Lyin’*, Henrietta Records’ follow-up to the Grammy-nominated *Juke Joint Chapel*. This year he won the Blues Music Awards’ Best Instrumentalist - Harmonica for a staggering 25th time, of his 29 wins overall and 2010 induction into the Blues Hall of Fame.

After Charlie was a member of Hot Tuna’s 2011 “blues tour,” leader/guitarist Jorma Kaukonen hit the nail on the head. “We just had a great time,” he smiled. “I mean, talk about the real shit – then there’s Charlie Musselwhite. When Charlie tells stories about the blues guys it’s because he knew them and played with them. And we know that harp players can be dangerous in the musical sensibility department, but not Charlie. He’s just the best. And he’s such a cool guy. It was one of those things that just felt so perfect.”

As Charlie often says, **“The blues is your buddy in good times and your comforter in bad times. It empowers you to keep going. It is secular spiritual music, the gospel blues. It’s music from the heart instead of the head.”**

— **Dan Forte**, ASCAP/Deems Taylor Award winner for excellence in music journalism

CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE

“Harmonica virtuoso Musselwhite raises the level of emotional expression on his instrument beyond even the masters he learned from . . . the grizzled veteran richly decorates his music with telling nuance and chiseled detail.” – *San Francisco Chronicle*

“Legendary is an overused term, but it’s also the only word that suits this heavyweight blues harpist.” – *Time Out New York*

“Musselwhite continues to create trailblazing music while remaining firmly rooted in the blues. His worldly-wise vocals, rich, melodic harmonica playing, and deep country blues guitar work flawlessly accompany his often autobiographical and always memorable original songs.” – *AllAboutJazz.com*

“Charlie Musselwhite continues to astonish. Musselwhite achieves an authoritative deep blues sound through spare understatement as only a master can.” – *Off Beat magazine*

“In Musselwhite, Ben Harper found a kindred spirit: an understated virtuoso able to push past tradition without losing himself. They’ve made a set that feels timeless and right on schedule.” – *Rolling Stone*

- 2015 Grammy nomination: Juke Joint Chapel
- 2014 nominated for 3 Grammy Awards:
 1. Best Music Film, “I’m In I’m Out And I’m Gone: The Making Of Get Up!
 2. Best Blues Album, *Remembering Little Walter*, with Billy Boy Arnold, Mark Hummel, Sugar Ray Norcia, and James Harman
 3. **won** Best Blues Album for *Get Up!* – Ben Harper with Charlie Musselwhite
- 2010 Blues Hall of Fame Inductee
- 11 total Grammy Nominee
- 2011 DownBeat Magazine’s Critics Poll and Readers Poll recognized Charlie for Best Blues Artist and Blues Album for *The Well*
- Mississippi Blues Hall of Fame Inductee and Mississippi Blues Trail Marker Honoree in Charlie’s hometown of Kosciusko
- Beale Street Brass Note Walk of Fame Honoree, with Charlie’s marker placed outside B.B. King’s Nightclub in Memphis, Tennessee
- 2011 Living Blues magazine’s Readers Poll winner for Most Outstanding Musician – Harmonica for the fifth year in a row (of 9 overall Living Blues awards)
- Featured in the documentaries *Born In Chicago*, *Sweet Blues* (about Mike Bloomfield), and *Pocketful Of Soul*
- Hosts the weekly radio show “Charlie’s Back Room” on KRSB, Sundays 6-7pm
- His longtime friend John Lee Hooker was best man at Charlie and Henrietta Musselwhite’s wedding in 1981.
- The Blues Brothers’ Dan Aykroyd based his Elwood Blues character on Musselwhite – the shades, the briefcase (although the handcuffs were Aykroyd’s addition). Fittingly, Charlie was cast as one of the Louisiana Gator Boys (along with B.B. King, Eric Clapton, Dr. John, and other all-stars) in *The Blues Brothers 2000*.
- Charlie has been featured on recordings by Bonnie Raitt, Tom Waits, Cyndi Lauper, John Hammond, Ben Harper, Mike Bloomfield, Elvin Bishop, Big Joe Williams, INXS, Boz Scaggs, John Lee Hooker (and his daughter Zakiya Hooker), The Blind Boys of Alabama, Jimmy Witherspoon, The Bo-Keys, George Thorogood, Dan Hicks, Otis Taylor, Eliades Ochoa, Vassar Clements, Eric Bibb, Harvey Mandel, Barry Goldberg, Tracy Nelson, Doc & Merle Watson, William Clarke, Candy Kane, Cat Stevens, Phillip Walker, Kodo, Tab Benoit, Dave Peabody, Grant Geissman, Mitch Woods, Gary Smith, and L.C. “Good Rockin’” Robinson (as part of the Muddy Waters Band).
- The album *Super Harps* featured Charlie Musselwhite, James Cotton, Sugar Ray Norcia, and Billy Branch
- Played the blues on THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA

radio promotion contact: Brad Hunt, The WNS Group (585) 765-2083, bhsabres@aol.com