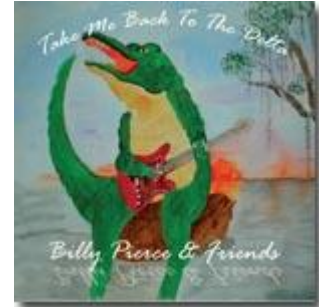


Blues Bytes

What's New

July 2014

Billy Pierce is a slide guitarist based in Wilmington, Delaware. Now, you may not be familiar with him, but his song, "Take Me Back To The Delta," won the Big City Rhythm And Blues Magazine's first round CD Sampler Contest in 2013. He also travels with a pretty impressive group of friends, many of whom are lending him a helping hand on his new CD, also entitled *Take Me Back To The Delta*. They include a host of New Orleans and Louisiana-based artists such as fellow slide wizard Sonny Landreth, Cajun fiddler Waylon Thibodeaux, Charlie Wooton of Royal Southern Brotherhood, piano man Johnny Neel, and the Bonerama Horns.



Pierce is a more than capable vocalist, but his slide guitar playing is the real star of the show here, as he blazes through 11 diverse tracks that mix blues, rock, soul, R&B, and Zydeco. Highlights include the rocking opening cut, "Happy Home," the rugged title track, which features Pierce and Landreth in tandem, "Cajun Boy Blues," the moody "Rooster," the poignant story song "Tojo," and the funky "Big Joe," with its insistent second-line rhythm.

Pierce also shows good taste in cover tunes, with a really nice take on the classic "Key To The Highway," which includes the Bonerama Horns and Johnny Neel on piano, the Hank Williams masterwork "Jambalaya," with Thibodeaux on fiddle and Henry Ramato on accordion, Johnny Sansone's "Give Me A Dollar," and Landreth's "Zydecoldmobile," with Thibodeaux, Neel, and Steve Ruth on accordion. Pierce also pays tribute to Landreth on the splendid instrumental, "Song For Sonny," another track with Thibodeaux.

On *Take Me Back To The Delta*, Billy Pierce, with a little help from his friends, successfully captures the swampy feel and authenticity of the Gulf Coast blues and R&B. This is the real deal, folks. The only way it could be more real would be if it came with a bowl of gumbo.

--- Graham Clarke