

five song EP, just an introduction to someone who could be the next Norah Jones. Accompanied by her co-writer David Zimmer on piano and occasional guitar, the band is filled out with Arlan Oscar on organ, accordion and moog, Andrew Synowitec guitar, Coso Franklin bass and Manon Franklin drums.

Beginning with a simple piano progression Jade slips into "Bedtime Stories" a song of hope and holding on to your dreams, her voice gliding effortlessly as the song builds and Andrew Synowitec takes a gentle sliding guitar solo. A free spirit, Jade's life choice as a musician has set her on a nomadic path and "Farewell" addresses her loneliness and detachment from family and friends while the cluster of piano and organ add a simple majesty sweetened by the background vocals of Sharon Hendrix. A Fender Rhoades piano and a choppy beat bring in Jade singing that even in death you're only a "Thought Away" as Oscar's Moog and Jade's own haunting background vocals sweep and swell. Stripping down the band to just Zimmer's guitar and Oscar on Wurlitzer, Jade's gentle vocals cut through on "Worth Fighting For." To finish this all-too-brief disc Jade remembers what her father taught her and sings that when confronted with adversity "Show Them Love" as a gospel choir gently erupts in joyful song.

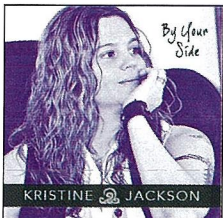
Music is an art form that is always changing and evolving. Jade Hendrix isn't your typical blues singer, this young singer/songwriter's debut CD "Farewell To Emerald City" could easily cross over to the commercial airwaves but don't let any success she may achieve sell her short. Jade has a passion and soulfulness that offers a new look into the blues of today. —

Roger & Margaret White

KRISTINE JACKSON "By Your Side"

musicbykj.com

Kristine Jackson was a musical prodigy, classically trained on trumpet. As her interest in music grew she found it difficult to express everything she wanted. She taught herself to play guitar in 2004 and has let her voice take the lead.



Putting out three CDs she says "The blues world is where my music was born, but not where it has to stay. All of this is possible because there are no borders or labels, it's just the music." This gypsy of styles flits from one to the next, not because she's looking for what fits but rather because she can. With "By Your Side" Jackson sings, plays rhythm, lead and bass guitars has written and arranged all twelve tracks co produced and engineered by Pete Tokar who also plays keyboards. Filling the grooves out is Myron Gardner drums, Matt Miller or Tony Nicholas on bass, Brian Davidson occasional acoustic and lead guitar with the sax of Dave Kasper and Jacob Wynn's trumpet.

Kristine vocals shift from gruff to soaring on this power ballad about the loss of a friend who will always be "By Your Side" then moves to the solid R&B of "What Moves You" with punching horns, popping bass and a voice similar to Shaun Murphy or Janiva Magness. With a reggae beat "Change My World" is powered by Ms Jackson's full throated roar then with a Rod Stewart like croon her vocals swoops high then dropping low as she dreams of "Another Day." Accompanied by hand claps, whistling and steel

drum she's "Proud To Say" your mine. "Always There" is a rocking ride with a touch of Janis Joplin while "Mary Belle" echoes Grace Slick's Airplane. With wailing harp along side Kristine's husky shouts of "Rob You Blind," the music shifts to a sweet swoon as Kristine shows "How The Angels Sing." With an icy blast of horns her vocals shiver as she sings "Come In From The Cold" and "Smothered" is a spaghetti western soundtrack as Kristen narrates with horn like vocal lines over her metallic guitar imitating flamenco flourishes. A bombastic rocker, "Burning River Chant" the organ and horns blast power chords as Jackson's guitar burns it up and her vocals match that force.

With a refreshing gypsy's abandonment Kristine's latest CD "By Your Side" takes you to new depths proving it ain't just the same ol' blues.—
Roger & Margaret White

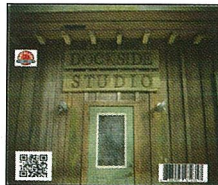
BILLY PIERCE Shapes Of Soul

Got Slide Record
www.billypierce.com

Billy Pierce may originate from Wilmington, Delaware but you'd think he'd been born on the bayou. His guitar has the edge and strength of Sonny Landreth while his voice is smooth, soft and slippery as southern moss - it grows on ya. Recorded at Docksider Studio Maurice LA with a core band of Charlie Wooton on bass and vocals, Doug Belote on drums and Keiko Komaki on piano and B-3, they're joined by some impressive guest players who complement the nine Pierce originals and two covers.

Pierce presents some tasty Louisianian roots music in anticipation of a trip to New Orleans with "Me & the Misses," it's held together with some titillating harmonica by Jason Ricci. Traveling further the band two steps through Cajun country with fiddler Michael Doucet on

"Acadiana" as Pierce's slide slips over the strings to carry on the party at the "Red Dog Saloon" where everyone's tail is waggin'. The good times continue as everyone takes a verse on Sugar Boy Crawford's



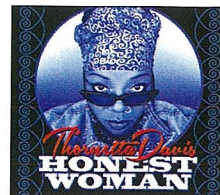
"Iko Iko" and joins in for the chants and hand clapping as the Bomerama Trombones take it to the wild side then slides back to earth with his lovely "Delta Queen."

If this CD were just made up of these delta inspirations it would be good, but it's only half of this impressive package. Pierce pleads the case for the working man living "Paycheck to Paycheck" with some R&B from the Bonerama Trombones joined with Komaki's B-3 ripping it up at a rat race pace and Pierce counters with a furious funky flurry of his own. The sax of Jeff T Watkins wails as Wooton steps to the mic declaring "Don't Give Up" with some rhythms that roll with the punches. "Tears of Joy" begins like the calm before a storm till a massive wave washes in with gale force and his guitar and keyboards dive into an intense jam with Mike Zito taking things to a whole new level then change form into the "Shapes of Soul" an instrumental where the guitars' gentle waves are like a cool breeze and the piano is shimmering as if a sunset. Continuing into a funky "Katrina" Pierce's slide draws you in, hits the wall and comes at you again while the keys and harmonica flow over you in waves and "PC" has Pierce's guitar gliding along the edge as you hold your breath.

Billy Pierce's "Shapes Of Soul" has an ever evolving form and that may be it's most impressive asset, it's persistent diversity.—
Roger & Margaret White

THORNETTA DAVIS Honest Woman

Sweet Mama Music www.thornetta-davis.com



Thornetta Davis is the reigning queen of Motor City Blues, and it's been twenty years since her last full-length release. This journey was paved with club dates, perseverance and hard work. Taking things into her own hands she's self-produced, written all the songs, sings leads and often backing vocals on all twelve tracks and even took the cover photo herself. Participating in this voyage are members of her longtime bands including Brett Lucas on guitar and James Simonson bass, both in Bettye LaVette's touring band, Phil 'Harmonic' Hale on keys, Todd Glass drums and James 'Jamalot' Anderson percussion and includes various horns and all star guests, recorded and mixed by Brian 'Rosco' White, guitarist in her first band thirty years ago. This is Thornetta's blues, everything is personal, she's lived all these songs and she's brought her life's journey to us. There ain't no faking an "Honest Woman."

Starting with a bone-chilling slide, Thornetta recites "When My Sister Sings The Blues," written by her sister, Felicia Davis, setting the mood for things to come. With a driving beat and powerful vocals Thornetta sings, "I Gotta Sing The Blues" a duet with Kim Wilson who tosses in a harp solo to top it off. "That Don't Appease Me" could be a classic King single from Big Mama or Etta, this Motor City Queen proudly wears the crown of current Big Bad Mama and with a rockin' rumba demands "I Need A Whole Lotta Love" as the horns squeal and moan. A kicker at every live show is "Get Up And Dance Away Your Blues" the dueling trumpets of Marcus Belgrave and Rayse Biggs with longtime band member Paul Carey taking the

guitar solo to fill the floor. Then Brett's guitar and Thornetta echo Muddy on "I Believe (Everything Gonna Be Alright)" breaking into a rafter-shaking gospel number with backing vocals of Special Anointing and then a seven piece gospel choir raises the roof as Thornetta testifies "Feels Like Religion." Switching to a calm, determined voice "I'd Rather Be Alone" builds in intensity to a simple triumphant "bye bye" as she invites Larry McCray who brings his band and a burning guitar solo to "Set Me Free." With the help of forty eight sister friends who've joined Thornetta on "Sister Friend Indeed" the journey ends with the soulful love song to her husband, "Honest Woman" each verse growing stronger then the last.

They say good things come to those who wait but if you really want something you have to get up and do it yourself, Thornetta has and this "Honest Woman" has fulfilled the dream we've been waiting for.—
Roger & Margaret White

TERESA JAMES & THE RHYTHM TRAMPS Bonafide

Jese-Lu Records
www.teresajames.com

Teresa James was a Texas filley before moving on to Los Angeles where she was pulled in by the Rhythm Tramps. These Tramps were originally formed by Terry Wilson and Tony Braunagel in London during the 70's on the off nights from touring when the 'Rhythm Tramps' would perform blues in local pubs. Now the renewed Rhythm Tramps are a steady group of players featuring Teresa James on vocals and piano, Tony on drums and Terry playing