

CD Review – Watermelon Slim

“The Wheel Man”

Blue Barry – March 2007

Watermelon Slim, well Bill Homans, has another fabulous hit on his hands. After his award winning Watermelon Slim & The Workers debut album where else could we go? Well we just go up. “The Wheel Man” CD, due out in April is just fabulous. I can honestly say the best CD I have reviewed so far this year. This guy can do anything. Want to hear what blues should really be, then go here. His previous CD earned him six Blues Music Awards. He won Mojo Magazine’s Best Blues Album of the Year, and nominations for Album and Artist of the year on Blueswax magazine.

He won Blues album of the Year at the Independent Music awards, and received a nomination for “Best International Artist” at the Maple Blues Awards. This newest CD is better than the first. No weak cuts on here, everything is strong. Slim lays down some slide, and harp and vocals, and funk that can’t be touched. Helping out are stellar bluesmen and band members Michael Newberry, Ronnie “Mack” McMullen, Cliff Belcher, and Ike Lamb. Just in case that isn’t enough, Slim has Magic Slim, the absolute man, playing guitar and vocals on “The Wheel Man”. Also David Maxwell on 3 cuts, and Dennis Borycki on two more. How long is this CD you ask? Fourteen songs long, and very satisfying. My favorite cuts are the opener “The Wheel Man,” “Jimmy Bell,” and my personal favorite, “Judge Harsh Blues,” a wonderful slide piece. “Watermelon Slim.....tough, harsh, brash, been there, knows what he’s talking about, mud between your toes blues.” That’s my quote. Don’t miss the boat; this one is what you have been looking for.

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