

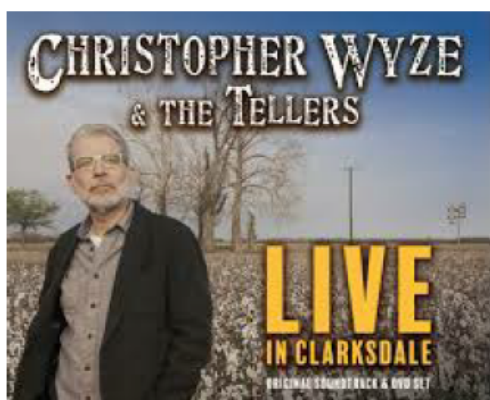
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# Bits

## BLUES IN THE SOUTH

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### **Christopher Wyze & The Tellers—Live in Clarksdale—Big Radio Records Bigr 1002**

This CD and DVD features a live concert recorded at “The Juke Joint Chapel” on the 1st of October, 2024, which is housed within “The Shack Up Inn” on the old Hobson Plantation. Within the DVD, there is also an extremely informative tour of the Hobson Plantation and essential places and venues of interest, in Clarksdale.

Christopher, takes lead vocals and harmonica, with John Boyle, guitars, Gerry Murphy, bass. Mark Yacovone, keyboards, Douglas Banks drums, Ralph Carter takes percussion, backing vocals.

There are eight numbers here from ‘Stuck In The Mud’, and two very emotional covers, Leroy Carr’s ‘How Long, How Long Blues’, (a fine, tribute to Scrapper Blackwell) and Jimmie Cox’s ‘Nobody Knows You when You’re Down and Out’.

The opener is a rocking ‘Three hours from Memphis’, the band is tight, and the sound is crisp, the pounding percussion drives you on. The rolling groove on ‘Back To Clarksdale’, is led by solid, encouragingly confident vocals, while ‘Money Spent Blues’ features crisp, rolling keyboards and stinging, driving guitar.

‘Hard Work Don’t Pay’, delivers a lovely, dirty southern, swampy slide guitar, raw harmonica and emotive piano, covered with mean, hard edged vocals.

On ‘Stuck In The Mud’, the stomping, percussion combines well with a pulsating piano and solid grooving, guitar, while over the top is a barking harmonica, Irene Smits provides splendid backing vocals.

‘Cotton Ain’t King’, emotively raw harmonica and driving, prowling slide guitar displays why nowadays the blues is a bigger money spinner.

‘Looking for My Baby’, is a piano and guitar rich toe-tapping tale of looking for the right one.

‘Good Friend Gone’, is a tale of an errant and illegal past, the raw harmonica, enticing organ and pounding percussion possesses a splendid Hill Country feel.

Highly Recommended!

**Brian Harman**