


# CHRISTOPHER WYZE & THE TELLERS

## Naptown Blues

***(Big Radio Records – Blind Raccoon – 2026)***

**Duration 40'07 – 11 Tracks**

**https://christopherwyzeandthetellers.com**

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Fred Delforge

Some artists arrive at the blues by the most unexpected paths. This is precisely the case of Christopher Wyze, whose atypical journey led him from writing to performing before gradually establishing himself as one of the most singular voices on the contemporary American blues scene.

Hailing from southern Indiana, the singer, harmonica player, and songwriter draws inspiration from the deep roots of blues, Americana, rock 'n' roll, and country. This diverse range of influences is reflected in his particularly evocative songwriting, where characters, places, and emotions take center stage. More than just a performer, Wyze is first and foremost a storyteller who uses the blues as a universal language capable of connecting

the most diverse human experiences. His repeated stays in the Mississippi Delta have strengthened this connection to the roots of American music and helped shape an artistic identity where tradition and modernity coexist seamlessly.

Accompanied by his loyal Tellers, he has gradually built a solid reputation thanks to an original repertoire praised by both amateurs and professionals of the genre. After the acclaimed "Stuck in the Mud," which won Best Debut at the Blues Blast Music Awards, and then the highly regarded "Live In Clarksdale," which stood out in the American blues charts, the group continues its rise with a particularly ambitious project: paying tribute to two founding figures of Indianapolis blues, Leroy Carr and Scrapper Blackwell.

This is how "Naptown Blues" was born, an album recorded in the very town where these two pioneers made their mark on the history of the blues. Far from simply paying homage to the genre, Christopher Wyze & The Tellers approach this repertoire with respect and a genuine artistic personality.

From the very first notes, "Naptown Blues" asserts its ambition to create a dialogue between past and present. The musicians infuse these historical compositions with a contemporary energy without ever altering their soul. The album exudes a remarkable authenticity, supported by a warm production that allows the instruments to breathe and highlights the storytelling quality that characterizes Wyze's work.

The interpretation of classics associated with Carr and Blackwell is naturally one of the album's highlights. The arrangements prioritize sincerity over technical virtuosity, allowing the full emotional richness of these songs to shine through. The band manages to capture the melodic elegance and depth of pre-war blues while giving it a contemporary resonance.

The original composition included in the project integrates with surprising fluidity into the whole. It demonstrates Christopher Wyze's mastery of the narrative conventions of traditional blues while maintaining his own distinct voice as a songwriter. This balance between historical accuracy and personal creativity is undoubtedly the album's greatest achievement.

Beyond the tribute, "Naptown Blues" is above all a reminder that the blues remains a living music, capable of transcending generations without losing its expressive power. By revisiting the legacy of two Indiana icons, Christopher Wyze & The Tellers aren't just looking to the past: they're demonstrating that these stories, melodies, and emotions continue to resonate with surprising relevance. An elegant, sincere, and deeply respectful album that confirms the band's growing place among the most interesting groups in contemporary American blues.

https://zicazic.com/christopher-wyze-the-tellers/