

## **CHRISTOPHER WYZE & THE TELLERS**

Written by Fred Delforge Monday, April 28, 2025

## Live in Clarksdale

(Big Radio Records – Select-O-Hits – Blind Raccoon – 2025) Duration: 41:04 – 10 Tracks

## https://christopherwyzeandthetellers.com

Although he spent many years playing in bands that covered blues standards—and was even recognized for his singing—Christopher Wyze had never seriously considered writing his own songs, let alone recording them. That changed in 2022 when, under the influence of producer Ralph Carter, he decided to team up with The Tellers. What began as a studio project eventually evolved into a full-fledged band that started performing live.

All of this led to the release of their debut album, *Stuck In The Mud*, featuring thirteen tracks recorded in both Muscle Shoals and the Mississippi Delta. The album quickly gained national and international acclaim.

To celebrate this new chapter, Christopher Wyze (vocals and harmonicas), John Boyle (guitars), Gerry Murphy (bass), Mark Yacovone (keyboards), Douglas Banks (drums), along with Ralph Carter and Irene Smits (backing vocals), chose a legendary blues venue to capture a live performance. They naturally selected the Juke Joint Chapel at the Shack Up Inn in Clarksdale, where they performed in early October. The event was recorded for a video documentary and included ten tracks—eight from their recent album and two covers: "How Long, How Long Blues" by Leroy Carr and the classic "Nobody Knows You When You're Down And Out" by Scrapper Blackwell.

Discovered and supported by Johnny Phillips—nephew of the legendary Sam Phillips of Sun Studios and owner of Select-O-Hits—Christopher Wyze now has the opportunity to fully express his artistic and creative talents. He proves this with a second album, recorded just nine months after the first. This new release features tracks praised by Roots Music Report, such as "Three Hours From Memphis," "Back To Clarksdale," "Hard Work Don't Pay," "Cotton Ain't King," and "Good Friend Gone," all delivered in the unique atmosphere beloved by regulars of the Juke Joint Chapel.

Available in stores since mid-April!

Read online